



Namibia talks to resume this week

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Regional peace talks aimed at removing Cuban troops from Angola and granting independence to Namibia could resume this week in Geneva, a South African government spokeswoman said Sunday. South Africa, Cuba, Angola and U.S. mediators have been holding periodic talks since May. But they have been unable to settle on a timetable for the departure of the estimated 50,000 Cuban troops supporting Angola's government and an independence date in the South African-controlled territory of Namibia. There is a "strong possibility" that the talks will resume by the middle of the week in Geneva, according to a spokeswoman for the Department of Foreign Affairs, who requested anonymity. South Africa has said it is "flexible" on a U.S. peace plan presented at informal talks in New York Oct. 6-9. South African negotiators still are waiting for a response from the Cubans and the Angolans before the next round of talks resume, the spokeswoman said. Details of the U.S. plan have not been released publicly. However, sources have said the proposal calls for South Africa to begin implementing independence Jan. 1, 1989, leading to elections next Aug. 1.

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French voters ignore referendum

PARIS (R) — French voters delivered a stinging rebuke to the Socialist leadership Sunday by boycotting in record numbers a referendum on a peace plan for the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia. Provisional voting figures showed only 37 per cent of the French electorate turned out to vote, the biggest abstention rate this century. Prime Minister Michel Rocard's peace plan won the support of 80 per cent of voters, but political analysts said the record abstention rate made his victory hollow. Moments after the results were announced, Rocard said in a nationwide address he was disappointed at the low turnout. "I always worry when the right to vote is neglected. I would have liked to have seen broader support for the plan," he said. But he said some 12 million French voters had taken part in the referendum which gives the people of New Caledonia the right to choose in 1998 whether or not to stay French. In New Caledonia, 57 per cent of voters endorsed Rocard's peace plan, which was hammered out weeks after he took office in May and signed by both Kanak separatists and pro-French loyalists. But in the capital Noumea, inhabited mainly by pro-French settlers, 63 per cent voted "no" to the peace plan.

AROUND THE WORLD...

'Iraqi army first in reconstruction'

BAGHDAD (R) — Projects which meet the needs of the armed forces must take priority at present in Iraq's post-war reconstruction, a minister was quoted as saying Sunday. Housing Minister Taher Mohammad Hassoun Al Marzouq was speaking to a 140-strong delegation of Gulf Arab businessmen visiting Iraq to discuss ways of sharing the rebuilding work. A delegation member also quoted him as saying: "We have to take into consideration any possibilities that may not allow the completion of the peace process, which depends on the other side's reliability and on the international community's efforts to impose peace."

Solidarity threatens nationwide strike

WARSAW (AP) — The national executive commission of the banned Solidarity trade union Sunday threatened broad protests, including strikes, if the government does not reverse its decision to close the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk. The statement was the strongest yet by the union, which appears to be on a collision course with the government, over the closure of the yard where Solidarity was born. The government announced Oct. 31 that it will close the yard beginning Dec. 31, citing economic reasons (Warsaw sets terms, page 8).

Tunisia's militants welcome pardon

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's Islamic militants welcomed Saturday's presidential pardon for scores of political prisoners, including many of their colleagues. A source close to the leadership of the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) told Reuters: "It shows that President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali has really decided to turn the page on the injustices we suffered under (former President Habib) Bourguiba." On Saturday, two days before the first anniversary of his coming to power (see page 5), Ibn Ali released more than 100 militants, many of them MTI members, and pardoned several leaders sentenced to five years imprisonment in September.

France not to reduce Gulf fleet

RIYADH (R) — France has no plans to cut its fleet in the Gulf and Arabian Sea despite the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said Sunday. Chevenement, who arrived Saturday for a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, told a news conference France had 13 ships in the region. "No reduction is forecast," he said. He said the aircraft carrier Clemenceau and its escorts were withdrawn from the Arabian Sea a month after the August ceasefire. But French frigates and support vessels were still on station in the Gulf.

Sinhalese radicals call 4-day strike

COLOMBO (AP) — Anti-government radicals Sunday called a four-day nationwide strike to demand the resignation of President Junius R. Jayewardene. The militant Sinhalese People's Liberation Front issued the strike call in posters put up around the capital. The front, which opposes the government's overtures to minority Tamils, shut down the country in a series of one-day strikes in recent weeks. The government has imposed sweeping emergency laws but failed to prevent mass closures.

Detained suspects escape through tunnel

COLOMBO (AP) — At least 153 prisoners escaped through an earthen tunnel from a military detention camp in southern Sri Lanka before dawn Sunday, officials said. Almost all the escapees had been detained on suspicion of belonging to the People's Liberation Front. Speaking on condition of anonymity, officials said the prisoners had dug a tunnel at the Palawatta camp 70 kilometres southeast of Colombo. They offered no further details on the escape.

Rebels fire rockets on Kabul

MOSCOW (AP) — Rebels fired three rockets into Kabul Sunday with unknown effect, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported. TASS did not say if Afghan forces returned the fire. The Soviet Union has halted the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan due to such rocket attacks. On Friday, it cast doubt on whether it would meet the Feb. 15 deadline for removing all of its troops if fighting continues.

Gulf ministers to discuss security

RIYADH (R) — Interior ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet Monday to discuss cooperating on regional security, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. Arab Gulf leaders approved a draft agreement on "full security strategy" last December but it has yet to be signed.

Jackson hints at 1992 presidential bid

CHICAGO (R) — Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, saying he has yet to "blossom and flower" as a leader, hinted he would run for president in 1992 if Michael Dukakis loses Tuesday's election, the Chicago Sun Times reported Sunday. "If Dukakis loses on Tuesday, the next political season will begin on Wednesday," Jackson, who was runner up for the Democratic nomination, told the Sun Times in an interview.

Priest fires at Mauritian premier

PORT LOUIS (R) — A Hindu priest fired two shots at Mauritian Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth Sunday, missing his target but wounding a bodyguard, police said. The 68-year-old priest was overpowered by police at the Arya Samaj Temple in Trefres, 10 kilometres from the capital of Port Louis, where Jugnauth was attending a Hindu celebration with about 150 people. There was no immediate indication of a motive for the assassination attempt against Jugnauth, who is a Hindu.

Khomeini makes rare public appearance

NICOSIA (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, appearing fragile, made a rare public appearance Sunday when he received a small crowd of handicapped athletes and relatives of soldiers killed or missing in action in the Gulf war. Iran's state-run television network, monitored in Nicosia, showed Khomeini sitting in a low chair throughout the ceremony at the mosque adjoining his residence in north Tehran. Other clerics addressed the small crowd, but Khomeini did not speak.

7 dead or missing in hostage saga

MALE, Maldives (AP) — Indian commandos rescued 20 hostages Sunday but seven others were dead or missing after Sri Lankan mercenaries surrendered aboard their fishing getaway ship following a coup attempt in the Maldives, officials said. The mercenaries threw down their arms after the Indian frigate Godavari fired on the cargo vessel 100 kilometres from the Sri Lankan coast, Indian officials said. The Indian marine commandos found the bodies of four hostages aboard the Maldivian-registered ship, Indian government spokesman Ramakrishnan Rao said in New Delhi. Interviews with survivors indicated three other hostages were missing and their fate was unknown, he said (see earlier story on page 8).



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses a meeting at Mu'ta University on development in the Maan-Karak-Tafileh region (Petra photo)

GFJTU chief hails economic measures

AMMAN (Petra) — General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) Secretary General Samir Qardan Sunday cabled thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for the economic measures announced by the government Saturday. Qardan described the measures as clear evidence of His Majesty's keen interest in achieving food and economic security for all citizens.

Qardan said these measures "are designed to encourage local industries and to provide job opportunities for local labour force and for supporting the Jordanian economy to enable it to stand firm in the face of malicious forces."

Qardan pledged, on behalf of the 200,000 trade union members in Jordan "to remain the faithful and dedicated to the King and the beloved country."

In a similar cable to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Qardan said the new economic measures "are a subject of pleasure to the trade unions and provided them with a new incentive to work harder."

The measures also represent a shift from consumption to production and enhance self-reliance and rationalisation of expenditure," he added.

"The latest measures are capable of placing Jordan in an advanced position, as a centre of qualitative production for the whole Arab Region," he said.

Qardan also said the government's decision and measures "are very important for a healthy national economy and that they receive the welcome and appreciation of all trade unions in Jordan, because they enhance self-reliance and provide job opportunities for thousands of Jordanian worker."

Al Hussein congratulates Gorbachev

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev congratulating him, on the occasion of the anniversary of the October Revolution.

The King praised the excellent cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union, saying that this cooperation serves the interests of both people. He also lauded the ongoing Soviet efforts to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy.

The King also expressed hope that the Soviet Union would continue to play the constructive and responsible role it has always played to serve the cause of peace, security, stability and to assist nations to restore their legitimate rights.

King Hussein wished the Soviet leader continued good health and happiness and the Soviet people further progress and prosperity.

Odeh: New economic measures aim to enhance self-reliance

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said Sunday the recent economic measures adopted by the government were aimed at restoring economic balance, enhancing national self-reliance and ensuring a shift from a consuming society to a productive society through changing patterns of consumption and maintaining Jordan's credibility in honouring its financial commitments.

In an interview with Jordan Television and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Odeh said that the new measures "represent a new national approach that warrants the contribution and cooperation of all citizens to overcome the current stage and rectify its economic and financial situations and ensure the restoration of economic growth at high rates."

Odeh said the components of Jordan's balance of payment and revenues come mainly from commodity exports, expatriate remittances, travel and tourist services and financial aid. In 1987, revenues from commodity exports totalled approximately JD 316 million while expatriates' transfers amounted JD 317 million, and travel and tourist services revenues totalled JD 196 million, he said.

In addition, Jordan received JD 167 million in the form of financial aid to the government, he said.

Jordan's imports in 1987 amounted to JD 915 million while debt service payments exceeded JD 300 million, transfers of non-Jordanians working in Jordan totalled approximately JD 62 million, expenditure of Jordanians abroad for tourism purposes totalled more than JD 151 million in foreign currency, the minister said.

"If we compare Jordan's revenues in foreign currency with its payments we'll find that the revenues in such currency is less than the payments, indicating an imbalance that needs to be corrected," Odeh said.

Foreign payments

Jordan's foreign payments fall under three categories — consumable commodities, raw materials and capital goods — Odeh said.

Consumer products accounted for JD 334 million — of which JD 132 million were for food stuffs — raw materials accounted for JD 341 million and capital investments account for JD 240 million, the minister said.



Dr. Hanna Odeh

"It will be difficult to reduce our imports of raw materials and capital goods, which have been exempted from customs duties because they are imported for use in local industries," Odeh said.

The minister also said that the government had no intentions to reduce its imports of foodstuffs. He pointed out that the government measures banned imports worth JD 200 million in some consumer and durable products.

Asked whether the government would increase customs duties on some cars and electric equipment currently stored at ports and customs centres, Odeh said: "These will not be subject to any increase in customs duties if they are cleared before any new increases are imposed."

Goods whose imports are banned under the recent government measures, should meet the criteria provided in the import licences — that is, to have their letters of credit opened prior to Nov. 6 — or those already shipped prior to that date, Odeh said.

On other items that will be taxable in accordance with new measures, the new tariff will be in force as of Nov. 6, he said.

The minister said that the Cabinet had set up a special office for price

complaints at the Interior Ministry. The Cabinet also entrusted the ministers of industry and trade and finance to study the actual cost of commodities with a view to maintaining price control, he noted.

Non-Jordanian workers' transfers and expenses incurred by Jordanians who travel abroad for tourism purposes, to a large extent, the main drain on foreign currency and that was why fees for issuing work permits have been raised," the minister said.

Explaining the new measure to levy 10 per cent on all bills of four and five-star restaurants and hotels, Odeh said the government was concerned with reconsidering the public sector expenditure. The government's decision in this regard was taken to give the public sector a leading role in efforts to reduce the budget deficit, he said.

Odeh noted that the recent measures apply to both the private and public sectors.

Odeh also said that the government, after noting private sector investments at a given time, had resolved to maintain the investment levels at a certain point to enable the restoration of economic growth.

The government also adopted measures to rectify the situation of shareholding companies with the ultimate goal of increasing investments and providing a proper investment climate, he said.

Odeh attributed the heavy financial burden on the national budget partly to exemptions and facilities offered by the government and to the support it provides to local and municipal councils to improve their financial status. Despite all these measures, the government has always honoured its financial commitments towards debt servicing, he said.

"All these burdens have inevitably left their impact on the balance of payment and on Jordan's reserve of foreign currency," he said.

All the economic, financial and monetary policies, adopted recently by the Cabinet have been designed to encourage savings and investment and local production, Odeh said. "All these measures will pay off in the near future," he said.

Two-day conference opens on Maan-Karak-Tafileh development

Crown Prince urges greater focus on desert development

MU'TA (Petra) — The desert lands of Jordan, estimated at nearly 70 per cent of the Kingdom's area, serve as a common denominator shared by all governorates and await serious development work on the part of the public and private sectors, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday.

"There is a dire need for close and serious cooperation between the governorates of the north, the south and central regions of the Kingdom if real development in the arid and desert parts of the country is to be achieved," Prince Hassan remarked in a speech at the opening of a two-day meeting here to discuss achievements of development councils in the governorates of Maan, Karak and Tafileh.

Prince Hassan referred to a similar meeting held in Amman last month to discuss development in the Amman-Zarqa-Balqa regions and said that participants recommended that other major cities like Irbid, Karak and Zarqa follow the capital's pattern of merging smaller municipalities.

"One small municipalities are merged, they form a greater unit capable of carrying out major projects which are bound to help the country to move from a stage of consumption into one marked with fruitful production," Prince Hassan said.

Local councils, he said, should turn their attention to production

luxury goods and said that Jordan's attention should now be focused on production if citizens want to help build an integrated society.

The 1960s and 1970s, Prince Hassan said, marked an era in which Jordanians joined forces to lay down infrastructures of various projects and participated effectively in stimulating the national economy.

Minister of Planning Taher Kaana'an spoke at the meeting describing the gathering as a chance for revising regional development plans similar to the seminar on Amman-Zarqa-Balqa development.

Another seminar, he said, will be held later to review the achievements of the northern governorates. He called on the participants to come up with practical proposals and recommendations that can contribute to real development.

The minister noted that the present stage requires austere plans that take into consideration the importance of increased production of goods with competitive power in foreign markets.

There is a great need to bridge the gap between consumption and production, and a greater need to protect the nation's foreign exchange reserves, the minister pointed out.

After the speeches, six sectoral committees began discussing development projects in tourism, industry, transport, agriculture, social and municipal affairs.

Nablus protester shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester in an occupied West Bank village Sunday, hospital officials said.

Eighteen-year-old Mujahed Ahmad Muhammad Abdul Kar'een was shot in the heart and three others were wounded when troops clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators in Yassed, west of Nablus, the officials said.

Abdul Kar'een was the 316th Palestinian to die in the nearly 11-month uprising.

Troops shot and wounded 15 Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories Saturday, 13 in camps and villages of the Gaza Strip and two in Bethlehem, the army and Palestinians said.

Stone-throwing incidents were reported Sunday in four different areas in Gaza City and in Beit Sahur, Ramallah and Al Bireh in the West Bank. The army declared Ramallah and Al-Bireh closed military areas, meaning no one could enter or leave, reports said.

Troops also arrested 45 people in Zeitia, near Tulkarem, after putting the village under curfew and ordering men ages 16 to 32 to report to a school, witnesses said. They said the army seized several cars, a move used by Israel to force Palestinians to pay back taxes.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted Sunday as saying Palestinian leaders planned to intensify the uprising following last week's

Israeli elections.

Salah Khalaf, a Fateh central committee member, told Kuwait's Al Watan daily that plans were being prepared to boost the uprising.

"The recent Israeli elections mean that who governs Israel over the next four years will be religious extremists calling for expulsion (of Palestinians) and the transformation of the occupied territories into land free of non-Jewish elements," he said.

"The Palestinian leadership is now preparing an action plan to escalate the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territories to confront fascist extremism in the

Zionist entity," he said.

Khalaf said the election would not affect plans to announce an independent Palestinian state at a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting scheduled for next week in Algiers.

Hawshi Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, said Sunday he was the best man to take charge of crushing the uprising in a new Israeli government.

"What I feel is a moral duty to take over a subject I believe is in my ability to handle today in the best way and better than anyone else," the former defence minister told Israel Radio.

Israelis bomb Sidon camp, kill child

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships raided and destroyed a Palestinian base Sunday near the Lebanese port city of Sidon, police said.

Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen also killed three men who apparently landed in a boat on the coast just north of Israel, the Israeli army said in Tel Aviv.

The base attacked Sunday was allegedly used for launching attacks and ammunition storage, according to the Israeli army.

Police said the four helicopters blasted positions in the Bkousta area of the Fateh Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu Nidal.

Police said a child was killed and a man was wounded in the 10-minute raid.

The Popular Liberation Army (PLA) which controls Sidon said several people were wounded when Israeli helicopters blasted a residential area east of the city.

It issued a statement appealing to international organisations to stop such raids.

Witnesses said the helicopters dropped six rockets as fighters fired back with anti-aircraft machinegun fire and shoulder-launched missiles. One of the rockets set fire to a small shop and a car, they said.

Israeli Labour betters government chances

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Labour Party's chances for joining a new government improved Sunday after two religious swing parties said they would seriously bargain to form a Labour-led cabinet.

News reports also said the rival, right-wing Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir might invite Labour into another joint government if Labour drops its support for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

President Chaim Herzog announced he would begin consultations Monday with various parties on formation of the next government. Likud and Labour

were the first two groups on his schedule. Shamir said on Israel Radio that the situation was "not very clear" and that it would take time to form a government.

"Things are complex. Nothing has been finalised," said Shamir, who did not rule out a government with Labour as a junior partner.

In the coalition bargaining following last Tuesday's parliament elections, officials of Shimon Peres' Labour Party said all options were open but that Likud, which edged out Labour 40 seats to 39, still appeared most likely to head the next government.

"We must try all possibilities, although I believe we will end up in the (parliamentary) opposition," said outgoing Education Minister Yitzhak Navon of Labour.

The new bargaining stance of the religious parties appeared to result mainly from infighting and competition among the ultra-orthodox and could be a negotiating ploy to win more concessions from Likud.

However, Labour's prospects of forming a coalition appeared enhanced when Yitzhak Peretz, leader of the Shas, or Torah Guardians, said his party was "leaning very strongly towards

going with Labour." Shas won six seats in parliament.

The Torah Flag party, which has to Knesset seats and is close to Shas, also indicated a readiness to govern with Labour. The parties' eight seats could give Labour a chance of mustering a majority of 61 seats.

Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, speaking on army radio, said later his party was still undecided. He said it had "warm feelings" about Likud's traditional support on religious questions but added that winning over Labour, which has a larger secular following than Likud, would be a big achievement.

Sunnier days ahead for Jordan's weathermen

AMMAN — Weather monitoring in Jordan will take an advanced step when a new fully-automated and computerised national weather forecasting station goes into operation in early 1989, according to Meteorology Department Director-General Ali Abanda.

Work on the new station — building, equipment installation and other related infrastructure — is almost complete and line testing is scheduled to begin Nov. 10, Dr. Abanda told the Jordan Times this week.

The total cost of the station, which will be directly linked with a major regional meteorological station in Offenbach, West Germany, through a direct satellite link, is estimated at about \$2 million. Work on the facility, located near the old airport at Marka, north east of Amman, started in October 1987.

The national treasury is shouldering the bulk of the cost while total foreign contribution to the project is about \$200,000, software worth about \$60,000 from the Geneva-based World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) and direct aid from the West German government, Dr. Abanda said.

According to Dr. Abanda, who took over as director-general of the department in 1976, the new facility will have the most advanced equipment and communication facilities and will be directly linked through computer and facsimile with the five other weather stations in Jordan — one at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) and four at various military positions around the Kingdom.

These links will eliminate duplication of weather monitoring at the various facilities, which will now rely on the new station and its sophisticated communication channels to keep themselves updated of all weather-related developments around the globe every three hours.

Speedier channels

"We will have advance data on weather conditions for six days ahead instead of the present 24 hours and this will considerably help the monitoring process in the Kingdom," Dr. Abanda said. The speed of communications will go up initially by two-fold and by eight-fold by the time the station becomes fully operational, he added.

"At present, the speed of communications (teletype) is 1,200 bauds per second," he noted. "In the initial phase, the speed of the satellite line will be 2,400 bauds per second and will rise to 9,600 bauds per second when the station is fully operational."

"All weather information, digital or pictorial, will be stored in the computer and processed in all meteorological forms," he

An ambitious project to raise weather monitoring equipment and technology to their most up-to-date advanced level in Jordan is almost complete. Once the project goes operational in early 1989, the Department of Meteorology will be armed with a centralised monitoring process and speedier communication channels. Dr. Ali Abanda, head of the department, talks to **Ghadeer Taher:**



Dr. Ali Abanda

said. The processed information will be used for various purposes — civil, military and aviation — in the country.

Dr. Abanda, in his capacity as the meteorological chief of Jordan, was elected member of the 36-member executive council of the WMO for a four-year term starting May this year. By WMO parameters, Jordan is considered part of Europe and therefore had to complete with 39 other states for membership in the council, Dr. Abanda said.

The council, the supreme decision-making body in meteorology around in the world, meets for three weeks every year in Geneva to review the latest developments in the field of meteorology and keep itself well-informed of advanced technology applied by various countries.

Weather forecasts in Jordan

Dr. Abanda agrees that there had been shortcomings in weather forecasts in Jordan, but points out that these were not different from any other country, whether in Europe, the U.S. or any other region because "it is internationally accepted that any weather forecast could only be, at best,

90 per cent accurate."

According to Dr. Abanda, the department has a record of 85 per cent to 90 per cent accuracy record in weather forecasts. But he laments the criticism levelled at the department. "Our accuracy record is at par with any advanced country," he said. "We are using the same equipment and technology as well as scientific data as any country in Europe or the U.S. and, as in any country, we also have to give allowances for 10 per cent inaccuracy."

"If we say that the temperature is going up and if in fact it goes down then we are definitely wrong," he said. "But if the increase differs by 10 to 15 per cent then we are well within the internationally defined margins."

Furthermore, he said, there is a vast difference in the amount of rainfall in the various parts of Jordan. "Though the country is small, there is a big difference in the amount of rainfall... between the Jordan Valley and Amman, between Amman and the desert."

"For instance, the amount of rainfall at the University of Jordan is 500 millimetres, but near the Roman theatre (in downtown Amman) it is only 370 mil-

limetres," he explained. "Here (in Marka) it is 200 millimetres and in Zarqa it is 120 millimetres."

"So in a 15-kilometre radius the amount of rainfall varies between 500 millimetres to 120 millimetres," he pointed out.

Dr. Abanda, who joined the department in 1955, is very firm on this point. "People remember when we make a mistake but give little consideration otherwise," he said and recalled an occasion when he himself went on television last year and forecast snowfall in the next 24 hours based on available data and satellite photographs. "Snow did fall the next day. It also rained. The snowfall was in the Shobak region in the south and in some northern regions while there were showers in the Amman region. But, the data available to us 24 hours earlier indicated a strong possibility of snowing in Amman. Some people still laugh at us over this, but overlook that we apply the same theory, equipment and technology as in any other country and relay the net outcome to the public."

The department's links with the public and the world outside its charts, maps, satellite pictures and equipment include weather advice to civil and military avia-

tion as well as maritime shipping. **Induced rains**

Another major project undertaken by the department is "cloud enhancing and seeding" to induce rain. Having assigned consecutive contracts to an American firm for the past two seasons, the department has made steady advances towards eliminating any foreign role in the process in the 1988-89 season.

According to Dr. Abanda, the contracts were worth \$537,500 per year to Weather Modifications Incorporated, based in Bowman, South Dakota. In the course of the last two years, Jordanian experts from the department, which provided all relevant scientific data to the American firm, have gradually mastered the technology and built part of the equipment and purchased others.

The initial region covered under the contract was the northern part and gradually expanding to the southern Jordan Valley areas, Dr. Abanda said and produced charts and figures to show the rains that fell at various times during and after the application of the technology.

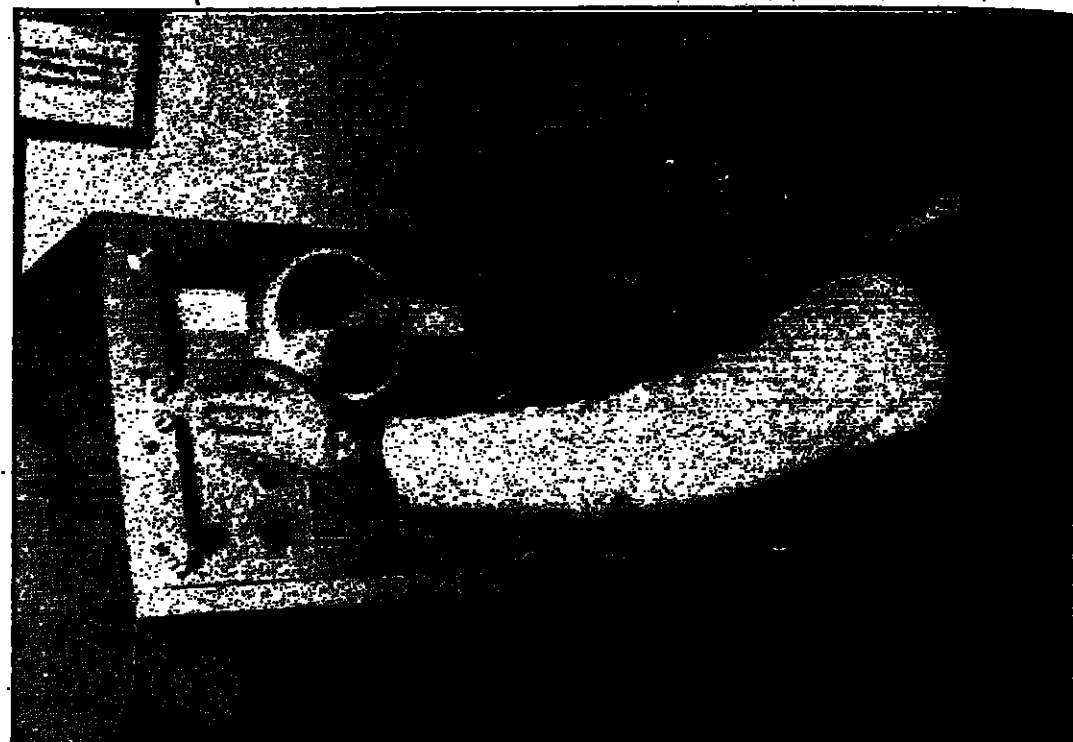
Dr. Abanda said he thinks the process was successful in increasing rainfall in the Kingdom. "We think it is successful. Sometimes it is very hard to know whether increases in rain are natural or induced. Of course there was an increase in rains in Jordan. Last year, the increase ranged from 20 per cent more to 300 per cent more in various parts of the Kingdom, particularly in the southern area."

The U.S. firm was given the third and hopefully the last contract for the 1988-89 season, Dr. Abanda said.

"We expect our technicians to adopt this technology and apply it themselves in the 1989-1990 season — November to April," he said. "We have the pilots, technicians, meteorologists, radar experts... who worked with the American firm in the last two seasons... and we have already built 18 ground generators locally. What we need now is an aircraft and we hope the Civil Aviation Academy will provide us with one."

He noted that the department had also acquired a radar vehicle for the purpose. "We got a very good bargain," he said. "The annual rental cost of the vehicle was \$112,000 excluding the cost of shipping it from and to the U.S. The company offered to sell us the vehicle at a price of \$170,000. So we struck a deal and the actual price we paid for it was \$30,000. It actually costs a quarter million dollars."

Dr. Abanda said it was too early to give any precise figures for increase in rainfall, as a result of the last two year's inducement.



Weather monitors at work at the present station in Marka

"Of course it has been noted that there has been a marked rise in rainfall around the country, but we cannot pinpoint the exact increase or to say whether it was

from the cloud-seeding process or natural causes without a final evaluation and assessment." The Meteorology Department was established in 1953. Now it

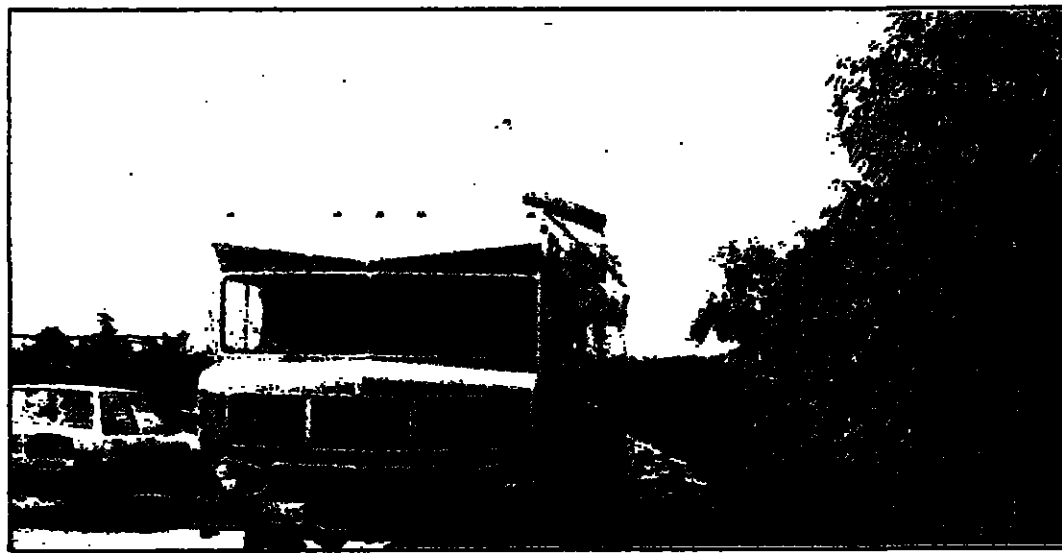
employs about 275 people — 220 of them with scientific background, some of them highly qualified experts, others are physics and mathematics graduates.

MORNING COFFEE FOR LADIES
from 10:00 a.m.

AFTERNOON TEA
from 16:00 p.m.

WINE & CHEESE
from 23:00 p.m.

Pizzeria



A new radar vehicle acquired by the Department of Meteorology for use in the "cloud-seeding" process.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:30 Programme review
15:55 Children's programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Programme on World Events
16:20 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:50 Monday Forum
22:40 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Variety programme (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 French documentary
18:30 Rue Carnot
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Ever Decreasing Circles
21:10 Enemy at the Door
22:00 News in English
22:30 Play: "Mother of the Bride"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 950 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:05 Just a Minute
11:30 Good Vibrations
12:30 News Summary
12:45 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Special Feature
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:45 Old Favorites
17:00 Young Sound
17:30 Arab Scientists
18:00 News Summary
18:45 Sports Roundup
19:30 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:45 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:45 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Malgudi days
06:45 Reflections 06:50 Waveguide
07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 07:30 Nature
Notebook 07:45 Recording of the
Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 A Green
and Pleasant Land 12:30 The Vintage
Chart Show 13:00 World News 13:09
News About Britain 13:15 Tech Talk
13:30 The Ken Bruce Show 14:00
Radio Newswire 14:15 Round the
Home 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00
World News 15:09 24 Hours: News
Summary 15:30 Anything Goes 16:00
Outlook, opening with 5-minute News
16:45 A Choice of Verse 17:00 Radio
Newswire 17:15 A Green and Pleasant
Land 17:45 English Songbooks 18:00
World News 18:09 News About Britain
18:15 Americans in Europe 18:30
Lyrics and Lyrics 18:45 The World
Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Com-
mentary 19:15 New Music 19:45 Sports
Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Mul-
tistrack 1: Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook,
opening with News Summary 21:30
Stock Market Report 21:45 Peebles
Choice 22:00 World News 22:09
Twenty-Fours: News Summary 22:30
Sports International 23:00 News Sum-
mary followed by Network U.K. 23:15
Turning Point 23:30 The Vintage Chart
Show 24:00 World News 00:09 Top
World Today 00:30 Financial News
00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-
up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commen-
tary 01:15 Mastering Photography
01:30 Multistrack 1: Top 20

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline
07:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10
Newsline 16:30 Music USA 17:00
News 17:10 Focus 17:30 Special En-
glish News & Features 18:00 News
18:10 Newsline 18:30 Magazine Show
19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special
English News & Features 20:00 News
20:10 Newsline America 20:30 Music
USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15
Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:10
World Report

CULTURAL CENTRES & LIBRARIES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
British Council 641520
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 64203
Spanish Cultural Centre 62409
Turkish Cultural Centre 63777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 6671816
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Amman Municipal Library 664251
Univ. of Jordan Library 637111
Abdul Hamid Shoman
Foundation 672541
Amman Municipal Library 637111

MUSEUMS

Children's Heritage and Science
Museum: Fun and knowledge for all
ages, plus a small planetarium at the
Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00
a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00
p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and
costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics
from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre, Am-
man. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has
an excellent collection of the anti-
quities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a
(Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00
a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official
holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a
collection of paintings, ceramics, and
sculpture by contemporary Islamic
artists from most of the Muslim coun-
tries and a collection of paintings by
19th Century orientalist artists. Mun-
tazah, Jabal Luweldih. Opening
hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00
p.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel.
630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military
Museum): Collection of military
memorabilia dating from the Arab
Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman.
Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings
every first and third Wednesday at the
Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
1604
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings ev-
ery second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphi Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00
p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Am-
man, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:53 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhur
14:49 'Asr
16:45 Maghrib
18:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabal Luweldih. Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Harsieh. Tel. 661757 Sunday
English mass (summer time 6 p.m.,
winter time 5 p.m.).
Teremata Church (Roman Catholic).
Jabal Luweldih, mass in Italian lan-
guage, meet every Sunday at 5:30
p.m. Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 717151.
Anglican Church (Church of the Re-
deemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383,
chaplain's residence tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh.
Tel. 717131.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashra-
fieh. Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho-
dox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 717151.
Armenian International Church (Inter-
denominational): meets at Southern
Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel.
685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church
of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Ara-
bic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N.
Sair 811295.
Reishon Congregation (meets at the
Good Shepherd's Church)
Interdenominational-ecumenical En-
glish Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel.
822605, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-
day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817,
821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) Information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:10 Cairo (RJ)
09:40 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Larana (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sana'a (LH)
09:25 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
20:50 Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Brussels, Montreal, New York
(RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles
(RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
14:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Kuwait (KU)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
21:50 Baghdad (AF)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

Medium and high clouds appear with
southeasterly moderate to fresh winds
causing thin in desert areas and be-
coming in the evening southwesterly

moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hazy
and partly cloudy with northerly mod-
erate winds and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 12 / 23
Aqaba 19 / 28
Deserts 14 / 25
Jordan Valley 19 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 22.4, Aqaba 27.5. Humidity read-
ings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 42
per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Sulaiman Al Khayyat 791880
Dr. Basim Al Qadadani 646024
Dr. Monzer Al Quraini 770258
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 637123
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

TAXIS:
Sa'id taxi 898434
Badawi taxi 792511
Kayali taxi 786030
Jyad taxi 740312
Ma'n taxi 895364

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sabahin 275393
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238
ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khushshneh (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alshah Maternity, J. Amn 62441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 624262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musafir Hospital 667278
The Islamic, Abdali 66512/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Zarqa National Hospital 09/591075
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/98323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/591075
Ron Sima Hospital 09/987152

GENERAL

Ministry of Information 641467
Ministry of the Interior 623111
Ministry of Tourism 623111
Driving Licences Dept. 892283
Foreigners and Frontiers Dept. 622108
Meteorological Dept. 892408
Public Security Headquarters 630221
Telecommunications Corporation 638301

Al Hussein cables best wishes to Tunisian leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of good wishes to Tunisian President Zia al-Abidine Ibn Ali on the first anniversary of his assuming the presidency in Tunisia.

King Hussein voiced his own wishes and those of the Jordanian government and people to Ibn Ali for continued success in serv-

ing the Tunisian people and achieving further progress and prosperity to his country.

He also wished the president continued health and happiness and success in his current endeavours to bolster solidarity among Arab countries and to serve the Arab nation's causes.

Recent rains promise healthy growth of pasture

AMMAN — The recent rains which fell in Jordan promise a healthy growth of pasture as they have replenished surface water areas in many parts of the country, Agriculture Minister Marwan Hamoud said in an interview published in the Arabic daily papers Sunday.

Hamoud said the rains helped to raise the stored amounts of water behind the Barqa Dam to 1.5 million cubic metres. This water is useful for thousands of heads of sheep.

Concerned departments have recently completed work on a number of artesian wells close to pasture lands and population settlements; and the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with

the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is making arrangements for catchment areas to store maximum amounts of rain water, the minister noted.

The minister also pointed out that two consultancy firms, charged with preparing designs to build two medium size dams in the eastern badia regions near Rweished have embarked on their task.

The Rweished area is the scene of pilot projects being implemented by the government to help settle tribes, develop the land and increase animal wealth. Plans are being made to build schools and other basic facilities for the local population in Rweished, close to the borders with Iraq.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition that shows paintings demonstrating public life in the Soviet Union at the Yarmouk University.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Cultural Centre for Men in Karak.
- ★ A book exhibition that includes books on medicine, engineering, basic sciences, computer science, management and economics at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A book exhibition that includes scientific and literary books at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ A literary exhibition held on the occasion of the centennial birthday of the British poet T.S. Eliot at the Exhibition Hall, the University of Jordan.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "The Spinster" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Sharif Zaid, visiting Chinese commander discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received in his office here Sunday General Xiang Zhou Zhi, commander of the Nenjing military region in China and discussed with him the Middle East situation.

Xiang, who arrived here Sunday on a six-day visit to Jordan, expressed his country's willingness to further bolster Jordanian-Chinese relations during the meeting which was attended by

Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and the members of the Chinese delegation accompanying Xiang.

The delegation were later briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their different duties.

They also visited the Martyr's Monument on the outskirts of Amman where they inspected items on display which relate the development of the Armed Forces in Jordan and the Great Arab Revolt.

Xiang signed the visitors register and watered the olive tree in the courtyard of the monument. Xiang was later presented with a token gift to commemorate the visit.

During his visit to Jordan, Xiang will tour a number of military positions and will meet with Jordanian officials.

Upon arrival here Xiang and his delegation were greeted by the assistant army chief of staff and senior military officials and the Chinese military attache in Amman.

UNDP to provide expertise for improving Jordanian industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has decided to provide expertise in technical and administrative matters to Jordanian industries with the purpose of improving industrial performance and production, according to an announcement by the Amman Chamber of Industry Sunday.

The expertise, which will be free of charge, is also aimed to

help Jordanian industries adopt internationally-recognised standards and specifications in all production lines, the announcement added.

The chamber invited industrialists wishing to benefit from this offer to submit a written application to the Ministry of Industry and Trade with a copy to the Chamber of Industry containing ample information about the company, its capital, in market-

ing and production problems it faces and other matters.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade recently signed an agreement with UNDP providing for such services.

Japanese aide to inspect voluntary work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Director General Takeshi Nakamura is due here Monday on a five-day visit to Jordan to inspect Japanese voluntary work and meet with Jordanian officials.

Nakamura will acquaint himself with the activities of 13 volunteers serving as specialists at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordanian Sports Federation for the Handicapped and other institutions.

A number of volunteers serve as specialists, guiding Jordanian personnel in computer systems, engineering, architectural design, nursing, town planning and archaeology.

Boutaleb: ISESCO has proven ability to take up challenges

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) is expected to constitute a turning point in terms of supporting the activities of the organisation which has proven its ability to take up challenges in its fields of competence, according to ISESCO President Abdul Hadi Boutaleb.

In a press conference held Sunday, Boutaleb told reporters that ISESCO "is a debt-free organisation... it does not have to send out S.O.S. signals so as to be able to pay the salaries of its staff."

The ninth session of the executive council of ISESCO will open here Monday to lay down the policy, plans and activities of the organisation for the coming three years, in addition to determining budget items and drawing statutory texts and internal regulations.

According to Boutaleb, the draft three-year action plan which will be submitted to the general conference, due to be held here Nov. 12, will cover around 80 programmes which come under five major objectives.

Boutaleb said the objectives are:

— to pursue current efforts within the Islamic ummah which are aimed at giving a true image of Islam and countering misleading allegations about Islam.

— to reconcile authenticity with

modernity where the vital options of the ummah and the Muslim citizens are at stake — educational, scientific and cultural development in the Islamic World.

— working for the achievement of the Islamic World's spiritual and intellectual unity while taking into consideration the multifarious characteristics of member states and the regional aspects which characterise some of their relations.

— completion of the structures and basic equipment of the organisation's general directorate.

Boutaleb explained that ISESCO, which was pledged \$24 million for its last three year plan by Islamic countries, is not hit by the crisis epidemic which has hit many similar organisations in the world "because we adopted the mentality of a crisis before we even came close to facing one."

"We received only \$16 million in the past six years which was the budget for only four years, but we survived," Boutaleb added that had the organisation acted as if no problem ever existed "then we would probably have been facing a financial crisis at this moment."

But Boutaleb said that if one looked at the crisis concept of that there would be no expansion of the organisation's programmes "then we are heading towards a crisis because some countries do not fulfil their pledges."

Jordan, Boutaleb said, has been one of the pioneer countries in the establishment of ISESCO

and has always fulfilled its pledges on time, "even at times of economic problems such as this one." He described His Majesty King Hussein as one of the defenders of Islam and the Muslims.

Thirty seven Islamic countries out of 45 are registered members of ISESCO. Countries which have so far declined to join are Algeria, Lebanon, South Yemen, Cameroun, Uganda, Nigeria, Iran and Turkey.

According to Boutaleb, the reasons behind these countries' decision not to join have not been officially specified but that there were two dominant trends behind their absence.

"One, is that some of these countries are facing internal problems which at this moment are more pressing and important than education, the second one is that some countries are under the misconception that this organisation is a religious one," Boutaleb said.

He said that in the second case, the countries concerned follow a constitution which is not directed by a religion and fear some of the organisations' objectives such as calling for making Islam the centre of education.

"But, my feeling is that all these countries will join us when they realise the real objectives of the organisation," Boutaleb said.

The executive council of the organisation is made up of representatives of 18 member states who are highly qualified in Islamic affairs as well as in science, education and arts.

Manama talks seek to stimulate Arab economic sector - Saqqaf

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) which was held in Manama — Bahrain called on Arab countries to support the organisation's plans to stimulate the Arab nation's economic sector, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Saqqaf who attended the meeting said that the AOID board urged Arab financial institutions, funds and the private sector to extend support to the organisation's activities and programmes especially the joint Arab economic projects.

Saqqaf, who returned to Amman Saturday evening, said that the board urged Arab states to

cooperate with the organisation in its drive to ensure food security.

According to Saqqaf, the board endorsed the AOID's 1984 budget, decided to call on Egypt to rejoin the AOID, appointed Hatem Abdul Rashid to serve as the organisation's director general for the coming four years, and decided to convene in October 1989 in the city of Tunis.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Filling in the gaps

THE decision of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to prosecute merchants and industrialists accused of unfair price fixing, falsifying customs declaration or refusing to sell goods to the public is the right signal at the right time.

There have been signs of unfair trade practices over the past few weeks in the wake of the floatation of the Jordanian dinar which need to be checked, and checked fast. The public expects protection from greedy merchants and business people who unjustly exploit the flux market conditions to the detriment of public interest and order. One would have thought that the business community in Jordan would be the first to lend their support to the government's sincere effort to stabilise the Jordanian market and stimulate the economy in the right direction.

We advocated a long time ago the establishment of a consumer protection agency to safeguard the country and its citizens from various shades of unfair trade practices. We need such an agency for all periods and atmospheres, not only in difficult economic and fiscal times such as we are encountering nowadays. Recent trade and business conducts have highlighted the urgent need for such an agency. There must be established criteria for the business community as well as the public to comprehend, on which they can make judgements. Only through a privately managed consumer protection agency can we expect to articulate clearly defined principles and guidelines for all of us to abide by and respect.

Otherwise we all run the risk of operating our trade and business practices in some sort of a twilight zone where neither the public nor the business community know for sure where they stand. Meanwhile, it is commendable that the government has resorted to prosecuting violators of fair trade practices in Jordan to fill the gaps that exist in this field.

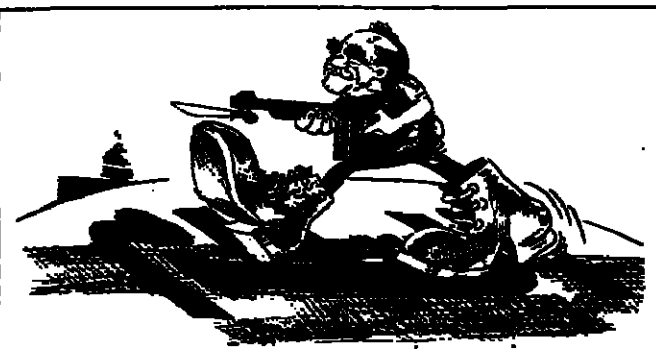
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

All three Jordanian Arabic dailies commented Sunday on the cabinet's austerity measures designed to bolster the national economy and preserve the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves.

Al Ra'i described the measures as part of the country's adaptation to the current economic situation, aiming to reduce the deficit in the fiscal budget and to take the country from the stage of consumption to one of fruitful and progressive production. The new levies on customs and luxury goods, the increases in the transport fares and hotel and restaurant bills constitute an important step towards saving foreign exchange reserves and reducing expenditure, said the paper. The measures came as no surprise to anyone since the government had paved the way for them through various statements and seminars and through underlining the importance of all citizens cutting their spending and to contribute to the national effort of bolstering the national economy, the paper added. The paper called the measures as a logical move towards helping the Kingdom to live within reasonable means, relying more and more on indigenous potentials.

Al Dastour commented the government's measures which, it said, would stimulate national economic sectors and boost local production. These measures, the paper said, should be welcome by all citizens as they aim to restore health to the national economy by enabling Jordanians to attain self-dependency. The cabinet decision came to put an end to a drain of Jordan's resources and to curtail the public consumption specially of luxury goods and non essential commodities, the paper noted. It said that the measures are bound to achieve their goals provided citizens joined forces with the government and shouldered responsibility towards the Kingdom's future and their own. Citizens ought now to change their patterns of consumption which drain the country's resources and reduce spending so that the aspired goals can be achieved, the paper concluded.

Sawt Al Shaab said that the government had to resort to such stringent measures in the face of the economic situation brought about as a result of the economic recession in the Arab area and the failure of Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to Jordan in implementation of Arab summit resolutions. The government has to control the situation through these new measures and has to put an end to excessive spending and the consumption of luxury goods and non essential commodities.



Rabah — Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday urges the government to enable students acquiring higher education abroad to continue to do so by helping their parents to obtain the required sums of hard currency for that purpose. Salah Abdul Samad voices his strong support for the government's new economic measures, and says that they are really intended to save foreign exchange reserves under the present circumstances. Indeed, the government has started with its own department, applying stringent measures intended to curtail expenditure and to put an end to waste of valuable resources, Abdul Samad notes. But he said it is reasonable to demand that the parents of children following up their higher studies abroad should be able to acquire their needs of foreign exchange to pay the fees for their sons and daughters. Failure to acquire such badly needed funds is bound to prompt students to stop studying and go astray, or return to their country deeply frustrated at not being able to continue their education, particularly as Jordanian universities are closed to them, the writer points out. Abdul Samad appeals to the government to give due consideration to this issue.

Keeping Aqaba beautiful

By Waleed Sadi

AQABA, Jordan's jewel city, may be losing its equilibrium under the strain of three forces pulling in opposite directions — for a long time now tourism, industrial and environmental considerations have been competing for the soul of Aqaba. Recently, however, there are signs that industrial objectives are overtaking other interests at an alarming rate. This may not be noticeable to the residents of Aqaba who may be getting acclimated to the creeping industrialisation process and its consolidating grip on the city. Only an occasional visitor can discern how drastic and devastating the effects of the wheels of industry have been on the spirit of Aqaba.

On a recent trip to Aqaba, my 5-year-old boy Ryan poignantly asked me whether the city we have just arrived at is a "truck city". Obviously this was his natural and spontaneous reaction to the sight of the thousands of trucks littering the coast line of Aqaba, the sea resort city that he was longing to visit since the beginning of the school year. In an effort to make a long story short, under the strain of avoiding long convoys of trucks, I replied that large vehicles are needed for the commerce of Aqaba. Ryan then innocently quizzed: why not use trains to haul all the heavy loads of goods to help keep the streets of Aqaba and the highway arteries leading to it free of truck carnage strewn their edges!

On my last journey to Aqaba, I got the distinct impression that what lies at the heart of the crisis in that city is the fact that series of master-plans for Aqaba have mercilessly overlapped one another to the extent that the Aqaba coast line now begins with marvellous tourism centres then becomes industrial, then reverts to tourism and finally ends up industrial once again where a string of industrial complexes fill out the last inches of Jordanian territory up to the Saudi Arabian frontier. The culprit could very well be the limited twenty miles long coast line where competing objectives vie for space, prominence or even dominance.

Common sense, if no other reason, would call for the division of our Aqaba coast line into two distinct districts: one industrial

and the other touristic. But to have touristic attractions and industrialised areas indiscriminately hodgepoded together is sour to the eye and detrimental to the harmony of the whole city. Perhaps it is too late to do something about this situation as capital investment in both tourism and industry is clearly exorbitant.

Theoretically speaking, only massive relocation of port facilities and industrial plants at murderous costs would truly alleviate the plight of Aqaba. It would be too naive to expect that such a huge capital re-investment can be had at this stage when capital sources have dried up considerably over the past few years. What can be done, instead, is crisis management.

To begin with, we need urgently an overall law for the protection of environment in Jordan. It is shocking to note that to this date we have no umbrella law for the preservation and protection of Jordanian environment. What we have is piece by piece legislation to guard certain environmental concerns. Without such comprehensive legislation, the city of Aqaba would lack the necessary yardstick on the basis of which the Jordanian environment can be protected from creeping industrialisation.

For example, dust that profuses liberally from the chimneys of the phosphate facilities opposite the beautiful sandy beaches servicing the chain of first class hotels, cannot be dealt with currently because there is no legal standard by which the clearing of such a heavy source of pollution can be put into motion. Fortunately this very dust does dissolve in the sea water thus avoiding dealing our rare fish a direct death blow. Unfortunately, however, this dust settles on the bottom of the sea and is slowly but surely smothering the precious Aqaba corals where our exotic fish find their natural habitat — not to mention the health hazard this pollution poses to tourists and residents of Aqaba.

The only long range feasible resolution of the multi dimensional problems posed by the conflict of interests between vying

objectives is to phase out existing port and industrial complexes from the touristic district over a number of years, and relocate them in the port-industrial district further south. The phosphate facilities, for example, have two outlets now in and around Aqaba: one close to the hotel beaches and the other further south close to the Saudi border.

It might just be possible to shift all phosphate facilities to the southern district of Aqaba coast line thus reducing the congestion of industrial plants and polluting complexes from the northern touristic district. Obviously it is too late to relocate the main harbour facilities from the northern to the southern district, but it is feasible to relocate the parking areas of ships loading and unloading at the harbour to avoid making them within an arm-reach of swimmers.

The application of a strict pollution control regime over ships would go a long way to diminish the hardships associated with juxtaposition of touristic and industrial complexes right over one another. With the proposed plans to construct a pipe line connecting Iraqi sources of oil with Aqaba, much of the so-called trucking pollution could be reduced to manageable proportions thus making the drive between Aqaba and all northern destinations less hazardous. The on-going construction of four lane highway linking Aqaba with Amman is most commendable. We can expect to keep the new artery beautiful and pleasant if the truck traffic can be cut drastically.

All of us Jordanians share a deep love for our only outlet to the sea. In fact the whole world has become fascinated with our sea resort. Thus we do not call it our jewel city lightly. It is the place where we seek refuge from our mundane duties to relax in the aqua-green clear waters. We want to preserve it for us and for all future generations by speaking up now and sounding the alarm before it gets much too late to do anything about it and reverse the tide trampling over its soul.

1988 U.S. election important to Arab Americans

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — On November 8, Americans will not only be voting for a new president and vice president, they will also be voting for representatives at the local, state and national level and on issue-oriented referendums.

The 1988 election is a particularly interesting and important one for Arab Americans. There are Arab Americans running for state, local and national offices, three referenda concerning the Palestinian right to self-determination are on local ballots, and, for the first time ever, there was a debate on Palestine on the floor of the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta.

Voters in San Francisco, California, and Newton and Cambridge, Massachusetts, will be voting in three separate referenda concerning the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

San Francisco's proposition is perhaps the most important because it has a greater opportunity for national visibility. This proposition would make it "...the policy of the People of San Francisco to call for United States recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood in the West Bank and Gaza, side by side with the state of Israel, with guarantees for the security of both states." Although 18,400 signatures were obtained to put the proposition on the November 8 ballot, opposition to it is very strong. The proposition is sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Association of Arab Americans.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts, proposition calls for the U.S. government to "Demand that Israel end its violation of Palestinian human rights and its occupations of the West Bank and Gaza; stop all expenditures of U.S. taxpayers' money for Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; favour the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with peace for all the states in the region including Israel." The Coalition for Palestinian Rights, a Cambridge association of 18 local civil rights and peace organisations, collected the signatures to put this proposition on the ballot. Opposition to this initiative is also strong.

The Newton Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace put up the proposition asking "Shall the representatives of this district be instructed to vote in favour of a resolution calling upon the United States government to support the principle of self-determination for the Israeli and Palestinian people; the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and security for Israel and the Palestinians?" According to Andrea Barron, the founder

and co-chairperson of the committee, this group is made up of "American Jews who want to change U.S. policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Barron noted that while the San Francisco and Cambridge initiatives are being sponsored by coalitions of Jews, Christians and Muslims, the Newton initiative is "primarily a Jewish" one. Although there is strong opposition to this proposition, Barron said that "regardless of whether we win or whether we lose we have already won one of my goals which is to open up this question to debate."

This sentiment was echoed by George Moses, the president of the National Association of Arab Americans when he characterised these three propositions as an

"example of increased involvement of Arab Americans at a local level." These propositions are "good mood setters" and will stir up "some community interest in the Palestinian problem," according to Moses.

At the national level three Arab Americans are running for re-election: Representative Mary Rose Oakar, a Democrat from Ohio, Representative Nick Joe Rahall, a Democrat from West Virginia, and Senator George Mitchell, a Democrat from Maine. Oakar and Rahall are running for their seventh terms in Congress. Mitchell is running for his second term in the Senate.

Arab Americans running for state office include: Linda Nassif Teague, a Republican, for State Representative in Iowa; Valerie

Simuro, a Republican, for State Representative in New York; Anthony Solomon, a Democrat, for State Treasurer in Rhode Island; Dan Issa, a Democrat, for State Senator in Rhode Island; Paul Jabour, a Democrat, for State Representative in Rhode Island; Debbie Farhat, a Democrat, for State Representative in Michigan; and Jimmy Naifeh, a Democrat, for State Representative in Tennessee.

Among Arab Americans running for local offices are: George Hanna, a Republican, for mayor of Santa Ana, California; George Ellis, a Democrat, for a judge's office in Houston, Texas; and Pamela Atiyeh, a Republican, for City Council in Baton Rouge, Louisiana — U.S. Information Agency.

New U.S. president must face tough defence decisions

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The man elected next Tuesday to succeed President Reagan will be quickly confronted with defence decisions ranging from where to slash U.S. military spending to approval of Soviet targets for America's nuclear weapons.

Some private analysts are wondering aloud whether either Republican George Bush or Democrat Michael Dukakis are yet prepared to make hard choices on defence cuts that could total more than \$400 billion in the next five years.

"So far I have no confidence that either candidate understands the depth of the problem or is prepared to take the necessary steps beginning on Jan. 20 (inauguration day)," retired air force General David Jones told a symposium on defence economics last week.

Jones, a former chairman of the Pentagon joint chiefs of staff, was among many experts who said the new president, faced with federal budget-balancing efforts, will have only until next summer to make the cuts.

"I wonder if top advisers to either candidate realise how much the budget process will constrain military spending," Lewis Sorley told Reuters at the symposium sponsored by the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

"The problem does not seem to have dawned upon some of those who are running the Defence Department," added Sorley, who has taught at the U.S. Military Academy and the Army War College.

One key item to be sent to the president will be a new Pentagon nuclear war plan based on a reassessment of the importance of Soviet targets and improvement in U.S. nuclear warheads, defence officials said.

But analysts said approval of targets for U.S. bombers and missiles is a standard practice for any president. They said the plan has been evolving for years to address changes in Soviet industry and reinforcement of Soviet command bunkers.

They said Bush, Reagan's vice president, or Dukakis, the governor of Massachusetts, would if elected face even more important decisions on options such as:

— Whether to cut the expensive presence of U.S. troops in Western Europe and reduce the high profile but costly patrolling of American naval forces around

the world.

— Which arms development and research programmes to cancel or stretch out so that funds planned for them over the next five years can instead be used to keep military readiness at current levels with required stocks of weapons and ammunition.

— Whether to spend more on computerised military training for a smaller but more elite U.S. military force.

NEWS ANALYSIS

— How to improve the intelligence watch over Soviet military policy and monitor arms reduction agreements.

Whatever the decisions, arms experts say they do not expect any superpower strategic arms reduction treaty (START) to save Washington money in the near future.

Negotiators for both sides have attempted to reach agreement on reducing long-range missiles but have ruled out such a measure

during the waning Reagan administration.

"One cannot look to start to save any money," said retired air force General Brent Scowcroft. "If anything it will shift emphasis to conventional weapons, which cost a lot more than nuclear weapons."

But Scowcroft, a former national security adviser who could get a senior position in a Bush administration, also said that much greater spending on conventional weaponry "is almost out of the question in terms of budget restraints."

He said any agreement to balance East-West conventional forces could save the United States some money over the long run if Moscow agrees to make major matching cuts in its tank and artillery forces facing Western Europe.

"But far from giving us a solution, arms control is more likely to increase the problems over the next five years until we get this budget mess straightened out," Scowcroft said.

LETTERS

Hoping for the better

To the Editor:

I HAVE a suggestion to JTV news announcers: to watch the film reel that accompanies the "broadcast" before hand. This would give them ideas on how to make the audience not only watch the news but hear them as well. With all due respect, JTV news broadcasting is the most boring and uninteresting to most viewers.

In the U.S. as in most information-based societies newscasters are called "anchorspersons," and they are considered celebrities because they not only read the text but make their reading very lively and very many toned to the films accompanying them. So many people there watch the news, including children, not only because the news items are more interesting, but because news is presented in a way that makes people watch, listen and comprehend what is being said and shown.

Not to single out only news announcers, many also believe that JTV techniques are also unprofessional. For example: it saddens us to notice that the other TV subtitles in Arabic are much more accurate than ours. Often JTV translations in Arabic are the opposite of what is really being said. For instance, in "Legal Eagles," when one actress asked the assistant district attorney (Robert Redford) if he were "uncomfortable," (a word that was repeated four times and was an important subject in that scene) the subtitle in Arabic was, instead, "comfortable," the anomaly. This happens very often, where "blond" is translated into "dark," "short" into "tall," and on and on. Those who watch the English programmes and understand them only by reading the subtitles would be very confused.

These two criticisms are only some of the criticisms that are made about JTV. Others include misspellings in announcements and bad grammar used by programme announcers. We hope JTV becomes more professional and therefore more interesting.

Name withheld upon request

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya sends ambassador to Chad

N'DJAMENA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi sent an ambassador to Chadian President Hissene Habre Saturday, formally ending a 15-year desert war between the two north African neighbours. "After many years of disastrous conflict which has harmed our two peoples we have to go forward together in peace," Habre said after receiving the credentials of Ambassador Gheit Salem Saif Annasser. Chad and Libya agreed to restore diplomatic ties last month, one year after a ceasefire brokered by the 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ended fighting at their disputed border. Habre said the exchange of ambassadors ushered in an era of lasting peace and showed the willingness of both countries to solve outstanding problems.

Maarouf visits France

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhiiddin Maarouf left Baghdad Sunday for an official visit to France, reported the official Iraqi news agency. The agency, which is monitored in Nicosia, quoted Maarouf as stating on departure that during his stay in Paris he will discuss the development of bilateral relations and international and regional issues with French officials. France has been one of the main arms suppliers to Iraq during its 8-year-old war against Iran. French weaponry, particularly missile equipped aircraft used with deadly effect against tankers transporting Iranian oil, played a major role in forcing Iran to accept a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire on Aug. 20. INA said Maarouf would also brief French officials on the latest developments in the U.N. sponsored Iran-Iraq peace talks being conducted at Geneva, expressing his government's keenness to reach a comprehensive and permanent peace.

Lebanese foes exchange prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Shi'ite guerrilla foes have exchanged 20 captured fighters following an accord to end hostilities between them, militia sources said Sunday. The sources said the deal was brokered by Syrian Brigadier Ali Hammond between representatives of the Amal militia and the Hizbollah (Party of God). The accord ordered an end to fighting in which 10 people have been wounded in the past month and banned propaganda attacks on each other by the rival groups. The 20 fighters have been detained since May when Amal and Hizbollah fought fierce battles in Beirut's southern suburbs. Both sides have been struggling for control of Shi'ite areas since 1984 when Hizbollah first emerged to challenge Amal.

3 teachers killed in Turkish rebel attack

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels bombed a hostel in south-eastern Turkey Sunday, killing three village teachers and wounding another one, officials said. Guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) surrounded the hostel in Mardin province, about 20 kilometres from the Syrian border, and hurled several bombs through the windows, the officials said. The dead included a married couple. The PKK launched an armed campaign in 1984 to win autonomy for the country's estimated eight million Kurds.

Turkish inmates end hunger strike

ANKARA (R) — More than 100 prisoners ended a 19-day hunger strike after officials at a jail in southern Turkey agreed to some of their demands for better conditions, the Anatolian news agency reported Sunday. The agency said 19 of the 116 prisoners involved, all members of a left-wing group, still awaited sentencing. They ended their protest Saturday night. Over 700 inmates in Istanbul's Bayrampasa military prison and civilian jails in Eskisehir, Sanliurfa and Diyarbakir are continuing hunger strikes started last week to protest against conditions.

'Iranian jet hijackers overpowered'

LONDON (AP) — Two Iranian dissidents who hijacked an Iranian Jumbo jet en route to Vienna in October and forced it to divert to London were overpowered by security guards before the landing, a British newspaper reported. The Observer said in Sunday's editions that British security officers boarded the Iran Air plane at London's Heathrow airport and the hijackers were removed, but the incident was kept secret and the fate of the hijackers was not known. The weekly said it obtained its account from a passenger on the plane, now in Germany, whom it did not identify. Officials at the British Department of Transport, responsible for security at Heathrow, and Britain's Civil Aviation Authority said they knew nothing of any such incident. The Observer said Iran Air flight IR-723, flying to Frankfurt via Vienna on Oct. 22, was taken over by two men armed with a handgun and a knife about half an hour before the plane was due to land at Vienna. It said the hijackers' demands were not known but the pilot told Viennese air traffic control he was changing course because of bad weather. The jet bypassed Frankfurt and was heading for London when Iranian security guards, known as Sky Marshalls, ended the hijack, the report said.

Israel's election result spells turmoil for Lebanon, Mideast

By Michael Kuli
Reuters

BEIRUT — The trend to the right in Israel's general election is likely to renew confrontation in Lebanon between the Jewish state and its Arab foes, diplomats and politicians said Sunday.

"The Likud Party's victory is a shot in the arm for Arab 'hardliners,'" a Lebanese politician told Reuters.

Lebanon has long served as a stage for both inter-Arab rivalries and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is still the most convenient arena for new rounds of fighting," the politician added.

For 13 years, Lebanese factions allied with competing regional powers have used their country as a battlefield to try to

achieve their ideological aims. Analysts said radical Arabs would now try to unseat more moderate opponents in Lebanon by stepping up attacks on Israel's so-called "security zone" in the south.

For its part, a new right-wing Israeli leadership was expected to crack down hard on Palestinians in the occupied territories and in Lebanon.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In Israel, the Likud Party led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won 40 out of 120 parliamentary seats last Tuesday's election and was trying to form the next government with the help of right-wing and religious parties.

Arab countries campaigning for an international Middle

East peace conference declared that Likud's victory represented a blow to any political compromise.

Shamir is known to oppose an international conference involving the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Diplomats said Likud's success was a blow to moderation in the region and would serve to harden radical Arab opinion that only military action could help their cause.

In the immediate future, they said radical Palestinian groups backed by Syria and based in South Lebanon were likely to renew their challenge to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's more conciliatory approach.

Lebanon remains the most important stronghold for Palestinian fighters and it pro-

vides them with a springboard for attacks on the Israeli frontier.

With Arafat planning to declare a Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied territories — a move his radical detractors say implies recognition of Israel — the militants were expected to renew fighting activity.

Michel Edde, a Lebanese specialist on Arab-Israeli affairs, said he expected Israel to use its iron fist to suppress the 11-month Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and step up air strikes against Palestinian targets in Lebanon.

Commenting on the Israeli election result, Edde told the Lebanese weekly magazine, *Al Nahar* Arab and International: "Israel will set the region ablaze to force it to accept an imposed solution."

Democracy is coming, but pace is slow

Tunisia: A year without Bourguiba

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — In its first year out from under the shadow of former President Habib Bourguiba, Tunisia has made tentative steps towards developing a multi-party democracy and restoring respect for the law.

Bourguiba, who governed the North African state almost single-handed for more than 30 years, lives in retirement but memories of his reign are fading as President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali begins to stamp his authority on the new era.

Ben Ali had his ageing predecessor removed from power on Nov. 7, 1987 saying he was senile. He has brought a new generation of younger and more dynamic leaders — most in their 50s — to key posts, promising greater openness and an end to the repressive mood that marked the last aimless years of Bourguiba's government.

The president, a 52-year-old former general and interior minister, has released thousands of political prisoners, invited back exiles, liberalised the constitution and opened talks with the Islamic militants who obstinately defied Bourguiba's intolerance.

ance.

He has also affirmed the country's Arab and Muslim identity which has won applause from many Tunisians who felt alienated by Bourguiba's attempts to remodel Tunisia as an outpost of Europe.

Opposition leaders said the record of Ben Ali's first year is positive and they will continue to back his reform programme.

But they add that change has not gone far enough or fast enough.

"We have the impression it's an uncompleted task... There's even a danger that the ruling party is acting as a brake on the process in spite of the president's intentions," Ismail Boulahia of the main opposition party, the *Mouvement des Democraties Socialistes* (MDS), told Reuters. "The new government has taken up the most important demands of the opposition but the steps have been inadequate," added Communist Party politburo member Ahmed Ibrahim.

Fears, fears

Diplomats say elements of the monarchist tradition linger in the government's approach to liberalisation. A bey (king) ruled Tunisia for more than 200 years



Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali

and Bourguiba adopted some of the bey's style of government.

"They want to open up but they don't know where it might lead and they're afraid of losing control," one diplomat said.

Procedures for forming political parties and media restrictions illustrate this fear of losing control.

Under a law passed earlier this year a political party can only be formed after approval has been granted by the interior ministry. Two minor parties have been formally recognised since Ben Ali took power, but two other groups

which probably count on wider support remain outside the political arena.

Among them is the influential Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), which bore the brunt of repression during Bourguiba's last years and helped precipitate his downfall.

Ben Ali invited a MTI representative to consultations on a national pact designed to draw up the rules for multi-party democracy. MTI members believe he will eventually allow the movement to operate as a party under a different name.

The signing of the pact today will be the high point of celebrations of the Nov. 7 anniversary. The date is already enshrined in the names of a magazine, a street and one of the capital's main squares.

The opposition complains that the media still functions under the rules of a one-party system.

"Frankly, the radio and television haven't been affected by the Nov. 7 change. The reason is well known. The officials there have received the type of training which makes it difficult if not impossible for them to do what is needed," said MDS deputy Secretary general Mohamed Mouada.

Soviet official: U.S., Pakistan ruining Geneva peace agreement

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan said the agreement on Soviet withdrawal is near ruin because of U.S. and Pakistani arms supplies to the insurgents.

The statement Saturday to legislators in the Afghan capital, Kabul, followed an announcement Friday that the Soviet Union had stopped removing its soldiers from Afghanistan because of increased attacks by Islamic Mujahideen.

Soviet SS-1 missiles and sophisticated MiG-27 warplanes also have been sighted in Afghanistan in the past week.

The diplomatic and military pressure indicated the Mujahideen offensive against the Afghan government has pushed the Soviet Union past its level of tolerance.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov as saying the supply of weapons to rebels by the United States and Pakistan "is a very serious blow to the Geneva accords which practically torpedoed them."

Vorontsov, appointed ambassador last month, also is a first deputy foreign minister with considerable influence and experience negotiating the Red Army's exit from Afghanistan.

In a separate dispatch, TASS said 450 rebels were killed and 160 wounded in fighting in nine Afghan provinces last week. It said 49 surface-to-surface missiles and two missile launchers were captured.

The dispatch could not be independently confirmed.

Vorontsov's comments came during a meeting of the foreign affairs commissions of the two houses of the Afghan parliament.

"The time has come for a new international debate of all aspects of the situation in Afghanistan and around it, because foreign

powers — Pakistan and the United States — are involved here that push the opposition toward continuing the blood-letting," he said.

Vorontsov said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar could play an important role in any new debate on Afghanistan.

The United Nations helped negotiate the agreement signed in Geneva in April that led to the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal. The agreement was signed by the Soviet Union, United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan say the supplying of arms to the Afghan rebels is a clear violation of the agreement.

But diplomats say the United States and Soviet Union tacitly agreed at the time of the signing that one side could continue arming its client if the other did the same.

In keeping with terms of the agreement, the Soviet Union withdrew half of its 100,000 soldiers from Afghanistan between May 15 and Aug. 15. The withdrawal is to be completed by Feb. 15.

GCC states conduct joint air exercise

KUWAIT (AP) — The six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council have launched their largest-ever joint air force manoeuvres, it was announced here Sunday.

Maj. Bader Saleh, a spokesman of the Kuwaiti defence ministry, told the Associated Press that the 10-day manoeuvres which started Saturday would involve 44 warplanes drawn from the air forces of the six GCC member states.

He added that one of the key objectives was to train pilots and officers on how to deal with the different types of aircraft used by

the six states: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Maj. Saleh said the exercise involved Saudi Arabia's U.S.-made F-15s, Kuwait's French-made Mirage F-1s, Oman's British-made Jaguars, Bahrain's U.S.-made F-5s as well as Mirage F-1s from the UAE and Qatar. He said that Kuwait's Gazelle and Puma helicopters were also taking part in the manoeuvres.

"The exercises are also designed to train the air forces of the member states in dealing with the land forces of the peninsula

shield," he said, referring to the GCC rapid deployment force based at Hafr Al Baten in northern Saudi Arabia.

He added that land contingents from the six states will take part in the final stage of the exercise, when the warplanes will use live ammunition.

The six conservative Arab states of the Gulf formed their GCC alliance to strengthen their collective security and economic unity shortly after war broke out between their two northern neighbours, Iran and Iraq, in Sept. 1980.

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Monetary chiefs discuss dollar today

ZURICH (R) — Faced with a faltering dollar and a market poised to drive it even lower, central bank governors from major industrial countries meet in Switzerland Monday to plan how best to prevent a route of the U.S. currency.

Financial markets have been bearish on the dollar in the run-up to Tuesday's U.S. presidential election, which serves as a warning reminder of America's inability to reduce its doggedly high trade and budget deficits.

News Friday that U.S. unemployment fell to 5.3 per cent in October took some pressure off the currency by showing the economy was growing more strongly than expected, but analysts say the dollar will likely lose more ground in coming months.

The policy tools at central banker's disposal on the eve of

the election may be no match for the simmering market bearishness that has been undermining the dollar.

Analysts also question whether central banks share the resolve needed to pin the currency around current levels, noting only the U.S. Federal Reserve Board and the Bank of Japan intervened to support the dollar last week.

Bank of Japan sources told Reuters Wednesday the central bank governors' regular monthly meeting at the Bank for International Settlements in Basle will focus on stabilising the dollar,

perhaps by altering monetary policy.

But one European monetary source said: "The Europeans are a little less ready to get involved in some kind of fine-tuning of exchange rates. They are quite conscious of the fact — maybe more than Japan and the U.S. — that certain fluctuations will always occur and there is little you can do about them."

European central bankers tend to view the current dollar weakness as a natural correction to the rally this year from historic lows at the end of last year, the source said.

The Japanese yen ended last week below 125 to the dollar compared with its end-1987 highs of around 120. The Deutsche mark, trading at around 1.78 to the dollar, is much further from its year-end highs of around 1.58.

And because inflation prospects are greater in Europe than in Japan, European monetary authorities are loath to ease monet-

ary policy to help prop the dollar, the source added.

Such differing perspectives and the absence of Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan from Monday's meeting rule out adoption of any broad policy changes, although the governors still agree they must work together to prevent a dollar free-fall.

"If the (dollar) decline accelerates and becomes more steep, some intervention might be necessary," the source said.

Even though the Fed stepped into the market repeatedly last week to buy dollars against yen, some U.S. economists speculate the United States will tolerate a gradual, orderly decline.

Fed intervention is regarded as an attempt to preserve stability ahead of Tuesday's election, they add.

The Basle meeting is sure to press home to senior U.S. monetary officials the urgency with which the next president must

address the U.S. budget deficit. Unless the new leader can convince financial markets he has a credible plan to reduce the spending gap, a renewed assault on the dollar is assured.

The U.S. trade deficit seems stuck at \$10 or \$11 billion a month, and signs are the U.S. budget deficit is going to start rising again in 1989, said George Magnus of Warburg Securities in London.

Markets seem more comfortable with the idea of Vice-President George Bush as the next chief executive.

"Bush — assuming it is he — cannot extend the business cycle, maintain stable inflation and keep the deficits down at the same time," Magnus said.

If Michael Dukakis should win, dollar sales would soon follow because Democrats are viewed as the party of protectionism, said currency analyst Brinsley Best in Paris.

Gulf Arab development needs broader capital market links

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab states are realising they will need much broader and better integrated capital markets if they are to fund their own economic futures effectively.

But economists and bankers say it will be a long haul.

"It took the European Community 40 years to get around to a fully integrated market. You can't expect too much," said an economist at a Bahrain-based Arab Bank.

Yet modest achievements are possible in the short term and Gulf states have a central role to play in the development of capital markets in the whole Arab World, they said.

Bahrain's offshore banking is perhaps the most developed single financial market in the region. "But we do not have a capital market, the most you can say is we have a bank service centre,"

said a manager at a U.S. offshore bank.

The experienced trade financiers in Dubai, or the Gulf's only stockmarket in Kuwait suffer much the same problem — they are separate markets without the regional links which could mean more efficient capital flows, the economists said.

Gulf Investment Corp in Kuwait estimates around \$320 billion of official and private Gulf Arab investment overseas.

Some economists believe there is much more because many wealthy institutions and individuals understate assets.

Governments have also realised they cannot lead their economies for ever by pumping more money into the public sector when they are getting less revenue from the oil they pump out.

"A lot of the recent talk about regional capital markets is a result of governments seeking to limit the amount of dollars they have to draw down from their oil revenues to fund development," said a Gulf monetary official.

Gulf states are stirring. Bahrain and Oman both plan to open stockmarkets as soon as they can. "The stockmarket idea was motivated by the need to tap private savings due to the fall in oil revenues," said a Bahrain Monetary Agency official.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and

Bahrain have developed markets in their own government bonds and bills to raise local funds.

Britain's unilateral decision last month to force Kuwait to more than halve its stake in British Petroleum has also raised a certain degree of nationalist sentiment about the issue.

Local Arab bankers said the region could not possibly absorb all excess funds available but with a better investment network and guarantees, other Arab nations, such as populous but poorer Egypt and war-ravaged Iraq, could absorb more.

Broader regional discussions on expanding Arab capital markets are scheduled at the fourth Arab businessmen's and investors' conference in Tunis this week.

Economists target the following possible problems.

First, free capital flows could undermine the strong control Gulf governments enjoy through public spending.

Should oil prices recover in the future, then governments may lose the urge to create more efficient capital markets.

Second, investor confidence has been hit badly in recent years, most notably by the Kuwait share crash in 1985.

Third, secondary markets which create healthy liquidity for any market will be weak until the above problems are resolved.

African individual incomes shrink

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African economies, rescued by good rains and crops, may in 1988 more than double last year's meagre growth, the continent's most prominent economist said.

But on average, Africans will again be worse off, the U.N. Eco-

nomics Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary Adebo Adedji told Reuters in an interview Saturday.

"If, as we expect, food production grows by three per cent which is more or less the population growth, I think the overall

gross domestic product (GDP) might rise 2.0-2.5 per cent," he said.

His forecast exceeds the 0.8 per cent growth achieved last year but remains far short of what he said was needed to put the world's poorest continent on the road to sustained recovery.

For that, he said, the African economy had to expand "at least five per cent" — far outstripping the growth in the estimated 550 million population which it now feeds.

He called for more debt relief, a boost in the net flow of resources from industrialised nations to Africa and a new economic order ensuring better prices and assured markets for the continent's farm and mineral exports to help it recover.

Adedji welcomed a series of initiatives over the past two years by industrialised nations and aid agencies to ease the burden of Africa's \$220 billion foreign debt.

But more remained to be done for the poorest of the poor, so far the main beneficiaries, while middle-income countries like Nigeria, Ivory Coast and those in North Africa deserved greater attention.

"We in the U.N., while we applaud whatever little has been

done for the low-income countries or the so-called debt-distressed countries, we feel that the issue of the middle-income African countries has to be addressed," he said.

Six years of uninterrupted growth in the economies of industrialised nations had failed to generate enough demand for Africa's farm products and mineral exports.

Persistently weak world commodity prices, except for base metals like copper, indicated Africa would earn less from exports in 1988 than had been expected.

Furthermore, the inflow of funds from abroad had stagnated. Net transfers from developed countries to Africa rose from \$17.9 billion in 1985 to \$22.9 billion in 1987 in nominal terms.

"However, measured in real terms, the resource flows were lower in 1986 and 1987 than they were in 1985," Adedji said.

This year's widespread rains, breaking an Africa-wide drought, brought relief to a continent struggling with poverty, hunger, civil war, disease and bulging ranks of refugees.

Adedji said severe flooding in Sudan and the Western Sahel had serious consequences for food output. But, he said, "We can expect bumper harvests in many African countries."

Sudan declares war on black marketeers

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has declared war on black market currency dealers as part of a campaign to put its debt-ridden economy back on the road to recovery.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi was quoted in Al Ayyam newspaper Sunday as saying an emergency law introduced last month to counter the threat posed by fighting between guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and government forces had been extended to cover the economy.

The paper said the authorities had arrested 15 traders for illegal currency dealing during the past two days.

Khartoum airport was also under surveillance to catch more black marketeers, the director of the central criminal investigation

department, Major-General Abdallah Al Hardalu, told Al Ayyam.

The government last month said it would act if black marketeers raised the street value of the dollar in an attempt to illegally trade foreign currency.

Sudan hopes a newly-introduced two-tier foreign exchange rate system will reduce the influence of the black market, boost exports and lure home the savings of some of the million Sudanese working abroad.

The Sudanese economy has been hit hard by a combination of war, famine, flood and a locust plague.

Khartoum has been unable to service fully foreign debts of \$12 billion and the government concedes inflation is running at between 40 and 50 per cent.

Antwerp diamond cutters face challenge from Third World

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Antwerp has launched a determined campaign to prove it is a cut above its rivals in the fiercely competitive world diamond market.

The business community in this Flemish port has adopted the showbiz slogan "Antwerp — a diamond's best friend" to boost the city's role in the trade it once dominated.

Antwerp's diamond merchants, who buy and sell the stones, have never had it so good.

"This may be the only trade in the world in which Belgium is number one," Marc Van Den Abeelen, general manager of the country's Diamond High Council, told Reuters.

But the cutters and polishers, who since the 15th century have transformed the rough stones into brilliant gems, are only just recovering from a major crisis.

Competition from abroad, especially from newly industrialising nations where labour is cheaper, pushed the city's diamond factories to the brink in the early 1980s.

"When people realised this industry was going down the drain, it took them four years to adapt. No one believed five years ago how bad it was," Van Den Abeelen said.

Once the world's only diamond-cutting centre, Antwerp is now one of 30. The workforce, 20,000-strong in 1970s, has dwindled to just over 6,000.

India and Israel are the biggest challengers but Sri Lanka and Thailand have also been eating into Belgium's markets since they can process the world's hardest stone at a fraction of European Community costs.

Some Belgian manufacturers have set up factories abroad to take advantage of low wages and non-union labour.

Despite the problems facing its cutters, Antwerp remains by far the major centre for trade in both rough and cut diamonds.

It hosts four of the world's 20 diamond bourses which last year handled 85 per cent of the world's rough and half its polished stones. Diamonds account for six per cent of the country's exports, and two per cent of its gross national product.

Antwerp expects turnover this year to rise about eight per cent to about 400 billion Belgian

francs (\$10.8 billion).

Sea trade routes from India, the world's first known source of diamonds, brought the industry to the port, and the skill of the Flemish craftsmen went unchallenged for centuries.

Ironically, many of the world's cutters and polishers were trained in Antwerp.

"That's both a compliment and a disadvantage. We made magicians of the students, now they're competitors," Walter Baert, a spokesman for the Diamond High Council, said.

Manufacturers are investing

heavily in high-technology equipment which Baert admitted could lead to more redundancies.

"We have the best skilled people in the world. We have a better cut, better quality, better service," Abraham Fischer, president of the Beursvoor Diamanthandel (Diamond Trading Bourse) said, noting it takes six years to train as a polisher.

But Antwerp has been too shy about promoting itself.

"You go to the United States, they think Antwerp is in Holland. We're not aggressive enough," Fischer said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday Nov. 6, 1988					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	449.0	451.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	359.1	360.9
Pound Sterling	793.8	797.8	Dutch guilder	222.2	223.3
Deutsche mark	250.7	252.0	Swedish crown	72.4	72.8
Swiss franc	299.2	299.7	Italian lira (for 100)	33.7	33.9
French franc	73.5	73.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	119.6	120.2

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Nov. 6, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	788891	JD 1067595	872
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Limited	1050	JD 144720	65
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	43900	JD 119956	109
Aladdin Industries	49750	JD 68112	51
Parallel market:	63968	JD 36760	—
Development bonds:	14	JD 149	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	643191	Jordan Commercial Centres	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Corporate	603507
Ministry of Finance	636321	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Labour	631185	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Communications	647391	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Income Tax Department	600151	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	General Securities Department	646171
Amman Customs Department	721818	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

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Top 3 pull ahead in French league

PARIS (R) — France's top three clubs, Paris Saint-Germain, Auxerre and Marseille, opened up a gap at the top of the league when they all picked up maximum points Saturday.

The league leaders from the capital won 2-1 at Laval to stay top with 37 points, one more than Auxerre, who gained victory by the same score in Paris against troubled Matra Racing.

Marseille struggled to a 1-0 home win over Mediterranean neighbours Toulouse with a goal from league leading scorer Jean-Pierre Papin on his 25th birthday. It was his 12th goal of the season and he scored in the 12th minute.

Champions Monaco, who did well to hold Bordeaux to a 1-1 away draw in a game televised live Friday, remain fourth but are now trailing Marseille by four points and Paris Saint-Germain by seven.

Paris Saint-Germain looked to be cruising to a comfortable win when Christian Perez and Yugoslav International Safet Susic put them two up by halftime.

Auxerre, with a goal in each half from Yugoslav midfielder Marko Milanic and Christophe Cocard, may have put another nail in the coffin of

Matra racing whose Portuguese trainer Arthur Jorge resigned Friday.

German Soccer

Helmut Schulte, West Germany's youngest league coach, continued his fairy-story season of success when his side St. Pauli held leaders Bayern Munich to a 0-0 draw Saturday.

Schulte, 31, who three seasons ago was still battling to get St. Pauli into the second division, watched his team earn a well-deserved point in front of 20,000 home fans packed into the club's tiny ground in Hamburg's famous red-light district.

Bayern held onto their spot as leaders but VFB Stuttgart's 4-2 victory over Hamburg in the other top game, narrowed the gap to one point.

Newly promoted St. Pauli, whose players' total salaries would hardly pay two of Bayern's glamorous stars, dominated the first hour and had several goal-scoring chances.

Stuttgart, who missed a golden chance to take over as leaders during the week in an unlikely 1-0 defeat by Bochum, re-stated their claim as serious title challengers with a convincing home win over Hamburg.

Aramex sponsors Mufti in UACN Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — Aramex International Courier will be sponsoring Hatim Mufti in the Universal Auto Centre National Rally Friday November 11th.

This will be the first time Mufti enters a rally in his rebuilt Dihabshi Charade. Mufti participated in Al Ruman Hill Climb in September and managed to place fourth overall.

Aramex is proud to announce that they will continue to sponsor Mufti throughout 1989, and would like to wish Mufti and all other participants the best of luck in this event.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THE ART OF SEEING RED

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 3 2
 ♥ Q 10 9 3
 ♦ J 7 5 2
 ♣ K 6

EAST
 ♠ 9 8
 ♥ K 4 2
 ♦ Q 10 9 6
 ♣ 10 8 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ A J
 ♦ A K 8 4 3
 ♣ A Q 5

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 6 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

It is tempting first to tackle the suit that will produce the most tricks. More often than not that is the right approach. Once in a while, however, you have to determine how many tricks you need from your long suit before you know how to handle it. This example is most instructive.

Your opening two-club bid followed by the two no trump rebid described a balanced hand of 23-24 points. After checking fruitlessly for a 4-4 heart fit, North made the

value raise.

There are seven fast tricks outside the diamond suit. How do you propose to play the diamonds? Strange enough, the answer lies in your hearts!

If the heart finesse is on, you need only four diamond tricks to fulfill your slam, so you can afford a safety play. If the heart finesse is doomed to fail, you need five diamond tricks, and the only way to get those is to hope to drop a singleton or doubleton queen.

Since you want to be in dummy for the heart finesse, win the ace of spades and, to preserve dummy's entries, carefully run the queen of hearts. When that wins, you need only four tricks from the diamond suit. So you abandon hearts and lead a low diamond from the table. Simply cover any diamond that East produces. If West wins, it means the suit is breaking no worse than 3-1 and you have four sure diamond tricks.

What if East inserts the nine and, when you win the king, West shows out? Continue with a diamond to the diamond ten. And if East shows out on the first lead of the suit, win and lead toward the jack. Again, you are guaranteed four tricks. Try it!

BRITISH SOCCER STANDINGS

LONDON (AP) — Standings after Saturday's English and Scottish soccer games:

English Division One							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich City	11	8	2	1	20	11	26
Millwall	10	5	4	1	20	14	19
Liverpool	11	5	3	3	16	8	18
Southampton	11	5	3	3	17	14	18
Arsenal	9	5	2	2	22	13	17
Derby County	10	4	3	3	11	6	15
Coventry City	10	4	3	3	13	9	15
Aston Villa	11	3	6	2	16	14	15
Nottingham Forest	10	3	6	1	12	10	15
Middlesbrough	11	5	0	6	16	20	15
Manchester United	10	3	5	2	11	8	14
Queens Park R.	11	4	2	5	12	10	14
Sheffield Wed.	9	4	2	3	10	10	14
Charlton Athletic	11	3	4	4	14	20	13
Everton	10	3	3	4	14	12	12
Luton Town	11	2	4	5	9	13	10
Wimbledon	10	2	2	6	8	18	8
West Ham United	11	2	2	7	9	21	8
Newcastle United	11	2	2	7	9	21	8
Tottenham Hotspur	10	1	4	5	16	22	5
(Tottenham had two points deducted for failing to stage a match).							
Division Two							
Watford	15	9	2	4	26	14	29
West Bromwich A.	15	7	5	3	20	13	26
Chelsea	15	7	4	4	25	16	25
Blackburn Rovers	14	7	3	4	25	19	24
Portsmouth	15	6	6	3	23	18	24
Manchester City	15	6	5	4	18	15	23
Barnsley	15	6	5	4	20	19	23
Sunderland	15	5	7	3	21	16	22
Crystal Palace	14	5	6	3	21	16	21
Stoke City	15	5	6	4	15	17	21
Ipswich Town	14	6	2	6	17	15	20
Hull City	15	5	5	5	18	17	20
Bradford City	15	5	5	5	16	16	20
Oldham Athletic	15	5	4	6	27	24	19
Swindon Town	14	4	7	3	19	19	19
Leicester City	15	4	7	4	18	21	19
Bournemouth	14	5	3	6	11	14	18
Plymouth Argyle	14	5	3	6	19	24	18
Oxford United	16	4	5	7	24	28	17
Leeds United	14	3	6	5	11	16	15
Walsall	14	2	8	4	15	15	14
Shrewsbury Town	14	2	6	6	11	20	12
Brighton	14	3	2	9	15	23	11
Birmingham City	14	2	2	10	11	31	8
Scottish Premier Division							
Rangers	13	10	2	1	24	7	22
Aberdeen	13	5	8	0	18	12	18
Dundee United	14	6	5	3	18	9	17
Hibernian	14	5	6	3	14	9	16
Celtic	14	7	1	6	31	21	15
St. Mirren	14	5	5	4	14	17	15
Dundee	13	4	5	4	15	17	13
Hearts	14	2	6	6	14	18	10
Motherwell	14	0	6	8	11	21	6
Hamilton	13	2	0	11	7	35	4

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unlock a secret, investigate a hidden matter, complete an invention, devise a new formula. Today and the next few days are favorable for exploring the unexpected. A hunch can solve a problem.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Monday blues are not for you. Charged with energy and confidence, you get your work done ahead of schedule. Enjoy nocturnal excitement.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): Adventure toward someone you are crazy about. It could be a reunion with the past. Use your resourcefulness to entertain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A so-so day at work is caused by your low energy level. Stay with the familiar, and catch up on some much-needed rest.

MOON CHILDREN (June 21 to July 20): Buy a gift for someone today while your ideas are fresh. Don't procrastinate. A good impression brings rewards.

LEO (Jul. 21 to Aug. 21): You are on the ball at work and have important contributions that bring rewards. You feel restless and sensual. Don't buy on credit.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Your need for perfection gets carried too far at times. Avoid blaming others. This fuels dissent, and has a backlash. Break from convention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Tension grows until you want to blow up. Rumors are just that — rumors. Pay no attention, and let them die down on their own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You notice friendly glances that have romantic overtones. Put money in a secure place. Plan for a future business trip now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Your life picks up speed. Resources come from distant family members. A self-question cycle has you moving in the fast lane.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): The company you keep may be limiting your scope. Eliminate hangers-on who deplete your resources. Be independent.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): You rise to meet a career challenge. Superiors approve of your work. A subordinate is interfering. Avoid wasting energy on small talk.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chyba

ACROSS

- Makes a hit with
- Wading bird
- They feed
- Kind of tire
- Debatable
- Huck's friend
- Card game
- Neat of the shears
- Leads XIV per annum
- Kind of truck
- People in a clay
- Banking items
- Large
- Prince
- Whimsical
- Common abbr.
- Artist
- Apprise
- Interruption sound
- Illness
- problem
- Direct way
- Stick or —
- Painter
- Land of —
- Certain energy
- Painting style
- unit
- Mean
- Point of view
- Saw loosely
- Syrup source
- Vehicle
- Author: Farber
- Mus. sp.
- Ripe
- Take back
- Author
- Fleming
- Andrew
- Patricia
- 70 Spin
- Headed
- Galway
- Secured

DOWN

- Shoe
- Filly stuff
- Chosen type
- Ventilating
- Reared
- Choose
- Painting style
- Yokel
- Kan. team
- Ancient apoc.
- Extending
- Mary or
- Marianna
- Wrong
- Young cows
- Sum
- Buckeye State
- Checks
- Author
- Wilder
- Get
- Circular
- PDR org.
- Mr. Ft.
- Organic compound
- Ancient
- Intran
- Alliance
- Letters
- Lat. abbr.
- With trepidation
- Claim as a
- Lacked
- Aromatic plant
- Emanations
- Repeat
- Molding
- Legume
- Lifesize
- Grander snow
- Prayer word
- Yale student

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. HITS, 2. HERON, 3. GEESE, 4. TIRE, 5. DEBATE, 6. HUCK, 7. CARDS, 8. SHEARS, 9. LEADS, 10. TRUCK, 11. PEOPLE, 12. BANKING, 13. LARGE, 14. PRINCE, 15. WHIMSICAL, 16. COMMON, 17. ARTIST, 18. APPRISE, 19. INTERRUPT, 20. ILLNESS, 21. PROBLEM, 22. DIRECT, 23. STICK, 24. PAINTER, 25. LAND, 26. CERTAIN, 27. PAINTING, 28. UNIT, 29. MEAN, 30. POINT, 31. SAW, 32. SYRUP, 33. VEHICLE, 34. AUTHOR, 35. MUS., 36. RIPE, 37. TAKE, 38. AUTHOR, 39. FLEMING, 40. ANDREW, 41. PATRICIA, 42. SPIN, 43. HEADED, 44. GALWAY, 45. SECURED.

DOWN: 1. SHOE, 2. FILLY, 3. CHOSEN, 4. VENTILATING, 5. REARED, 6. CHOOSE, 7. PAINTING, 8. YOKEL, 9. KANSAS, 10. ANCIENT, 11. EXTENDING, 12. MARY, 13. MARIANNA, 14. WRONG, 15. YOUNG, 16. SUM, 17. BUCKEYE, 18. CHECKS, 19. AUTHOR, 20. WILDER, 21. GET, 22. CIRCULAR, 23. PDR, 24. MR. FT., 25. ORGANIC, 26. ANCIENT, 27. INTRAN, 28. ALLIANCE, 29. LETTERS, 30. LAT. ABBR., 31. WITH, 32. TREPIDATION, 33. CLAIM, 34. LACKED, 35. AROMATIC, 36. EMANATIONS, 37. REPEAT, 38. MOLDING, 39. LEGUME, 40. LIFESIZE, 41. GRANDER, 42. PRAYER, 43. YALE.

U.S. college football

Notre Dame defeats Rice

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame enjoyed their first weekend in the top spot by pounding Winless Rice 54-11 Saturday.

In other games involving top twenty teams, it was no. 2 Southern California 35, California 3 no. 3 Miami, Fla. 34, Tulsa 3 no. 4 West Virginia 51, Cincinnati 13 no. 5 Florida 59, South Carolina 0 no. 6 UCLA 16, Oregon 6 no. 7 Nebraska 51, Iowa State 16 no. 8 Oklahoma 31, no. 12 Oklahoma State 28 no. 9 Auburn 38, Southern Mississippi 8, and no. 10 Wyoming 51, Texas-El Paso 6.

Rounding out the top twenty, it was no. 11 Arkansas 33, Baylor 3 no. 13 Louisiana State 19, Alabama 18 no. 14 Michigan 22, Minnesota 7 no. 16 Syracuse 49, Navy 21 no. 17 Clemson 37, North Carolina 14 and no. 19 Georgia 26, Florida 3.

No. 20 Indiana was beaten 21-20 by Illinois and Brigham Young, tied for 20th, lost to San Diego State, 27-15.

Southern Cal 35, California 3

Rodney Peete passed for a career-high 305 yards and three touchdowns and Cleveland Colter returned an interception 29 yards for a TD as USC routed California.

Miami, Fla. 34, Tulsa 3

Steve Walsh passed for three touchdowns to lead third-ranked Miami to a homecoming day victory.

West Virginia 51, Cincinnati 13

Major Harris threw three touchdown passes before suffering a hip injury as no. 4 West Virginia used big plays to remain unbeaten.

Florida 59, S. Carolina 0

Peter Tom Willis, starting for the first time this season, passed for 271 yards and four touchdowns as Florida State took advantage of mistakes to rout South Carolina. It was the worst loss ever suffered at home by South Carolina, which had been riding a 14-game home winning streak.

UCLA 16, Oregon 6

Troy Aikman threw for a touchdown and backup tailback Brian Brown ran 63 yards for another score as no. 6 UCLA struggled to a Pacific 10 Conference victory.

Nebraska 51, Iowa St. 16

Steve Taylor rushed for 154 yards and three touchdowns and passed for another, leading no. 7 Nebraska to victory in a snowstorm.

Oklahoma 31, Oklahoma State 28

Quarterback Charles Thompson sprinted 18 yards for a touchdown with 2:33 remaining to lift the eighth-ranked Sooners over no. 12 Oklahoma State, which lost a chance to win the game in the final minute.

Auburn 38, S. Mississippi 8

Reggie Slack threw for 272 yards and a touchdown and ran for another as no. 9 Auburn snapped the Golden Eagles' seven-game winning streak.

Wyoming 51, Texas-El Paso 6

Dabby Dawson ran for 134 yards and a touchdown as no. 10 Wyoming claimed a share of the Western Athletic Conference football title.

Arkansas 33, Baylor 3

Kendall Trainor kicked two field goals to set a Southwest Conference record of 17 straight and Quinn Groves' running and passing carried 11th-ranked Arkansas past Baylor, assuring the Razorbacks of the Southwest Conference title.

Louisiana St. 19, Alabama 18

David Brown's 34-yard field goal with 28 seconds remaining lifted 13th-ranked Louisiana State to a comeback victory over no. 18 Alabama, keeping the Bayou Bengals tied for the Southeastern Conference lead.

Michigan 22, Minnesota 7

Mike Gillette kicked five field goals and Tony Boles rushed for 184 yards on 32 carries as no. 13 Michigan won the Little Brown Jug.

Syracuse 49, Navy 21

Robert Drummond ran for two touchdowns and threw one of two scoring passes by a Syracuse running back as the 16th-ranked Orangemen set a home winning streak record.

Clemson 37, North Carolina 14

Terry Allen rushed for a season-high 167 yards and one touchdown as no. 17 Clemson took over first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Georgia 26, Florida 3

Tim Worley rushed for 135 yards and two touchdowns as 19th-ranked Georgia stayed atop the Southeastern Conference with LSU.

Illinois 21, Indiana 20

Jeff George threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Mike Bellamy with 26 seconds left to lead Illinois past 20th-ranked Indiana in a big ten game.

San Diego St. 27, BYU 15

Paul Hewitt scored two touchdowns and San Diego State's defense forced four turnovers as the Aztecs upset Brigham Young, tied for no. 20 with Indiana.

McEnroe wins EEC title, pursues \$1m golden trophy

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — John McEnroe beat Andre Chesnokov of the Soviet Union 6-1, 7-5, 6-2 Sunday to win the European Economic Community Tennis Championship.

The American needs just one more victory in the next two years to win a diamond-encrusted golden trophy worth \$1 million.

McEnroe won the tournament two years ago and is set to emulate Ivan Lendl who was awarded a similar trophy after completing three victories in five years.

McEnroe, who earned \$220,000 for his victory, said he would return here next year.

It was McEnroe's first success since he beat Sweden's Stefan Edberg in a Grand Prix tournament in Tokyo in April.

He breezed through the first set in 28 minutes but then found difficulty keeping his infamous temper in check during a much closer second.

The American loudly queried several line calls. He shouted, snarled and threw down his racket in the third game, complaining about the umpire and a linesman. He yelled at a linesman in the next game, walked to the umpire but changed his mind and returned to the baseline.

McEnroe finally had his argument with the umpire in the eighth game but accepted the decision after some more muttering.

There was one more outburst. It arrived in the last game of the match after a linesman gave a late call. McEnroe resumed play after the umpire told him three times that the ball had been called out.

Chesnokov never showed his true potential.

Becker whips Lundgren to win Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Boris Becker whipped Peter Lundgren of Sweden 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 Sunday to become the first West German ever to win the Stockholm Open Tennis Championships.

The third-seeded Becker, who was never broken in his last two matches of the \$642,500 event, did not show any signs of being troubled by an ankle injury that bothered him early in the semifinals Saturday.

"But I was very careful at the beginning," said Becker. "I moved very badly, but I had very good serves and that helped me. As the match went on I didn't think about the ankle any more."

Becker served and returned powerfully against the unseeded Lundgren, losing just 10 points in his service games in the last two sets.

Becker, ranked fifth in the world, won 14 points in a row during one spell.

The victory was worth \$126,500 for Becker, who also won the Tokyo Grand Prix in his comeback late last month after being injured for six weeks.

Becker's sixth Grand Prix win of the year matched the leading totals of Andre Agassi of the United States and Mats Wilander of Sweden.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Red Star fears own fans

BELGRADE (R) — Red Star Belgrade officials are more concerned about the behaviour of their own fans than the threat posed by European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit and AC Milan in their European Cup clash Wednesday. Having held Milan to a 1-1 first leg draw, Red Star are poised to pull off one of the upsets of the second round when they entertain the Italian champions in the return leg. But officials at the club are worried that the match could be lit by the sort of trouble which marred neighbours Partizan Belgrade's UEFA Cup victory over Roma 11 days ago. Partizan fans lit a fire in the stadium, hurled firecrackers on the pitch and left Roma's Giuseppe Giannini needing stitches in a head wound during their side's 4-2 win. UEFA has since fined Partizan \$6,600 and ordered them to play their next European home tie at least 300 kilometres from their stadium.

Leonard goes for two titles Monday

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Sugar Ray Leonard likes titles, even if they might be a bit suspect, and now he's going for

Four-day coup and hostage drama ends in high seas

Maldives gunmen surrender

MALE, Maldives (R) — Sri Lankan mercenaries who fled in a cargo boat after an abortive coup in the Maldives surrendered to Indian forces and will be put on trial in Male, the Maldives president said Sunday.

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom told reporters three people on board the Progress Light had been injured, but he did not know the extent of the injuries, or say whether those hurt were among the 27 hostages.

Gayoom, who was whisked to safety by members of the National Security Service (NSS) when the mercenaries landed Thursday morning, said: "We will try them according to the laws of our country."

The Maldives still has the death penalty on the statute books, but a Maldivian journalist said he had not heard of an execution in his lifetime.

The president said he had no prior information of the attack. He had put off a planned visit to

India two days before simply because of pressure of work for him and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he said.

He said: "No concessions have been granted to the mercenaries during the hostage drama."

The Progress Light was damaged by gunfire from Indian forces, called in by Gayoom to crush the coup attempt, as it tried to slip out of Male at about midnight Thursday. It was listing as it steamed towards Sri Lanka 370 kilometres to the northeast and shadowed by Indian warships and helicopters.

He said the final death toll in the fighting between the NSS and the mercenaries, who were Sri Lankans accompanied by disaffected Maldivian exiles, was

four civilians and eight members of the security forces. He said 40 people were wounded.

He said at least three mercenaries were killed but the attackers seemed to have taken a number of dead and injured with them when they fled. "We believe the mercenaries suffered heavy casualties," he added.

The Maldives High Commissioner in Colombo, Ahmed Abdullah, said he understood all the hostages had been transferred to Indian ships and were heading back to Male.

Maldivian officials earlier said seven foreigners, including two Swiss and a number of Filipinos, were among the hostages.

Gayoom said he believed there had been no fighting when the mercenaries surrendered. "The Indian navy ships fired a couple of warning shots and the terrorist ship stopped," he said.

The president said the Maldives, one of the world's more exotic holiday haunts, was return-

ing to normal. Although Indian paratroopers and NSS officers were still conducting searches, he said: "There is no mopping up operation."

However, many shops and offices were still closed, and people said they had been advised to remain indoors as much as possible.

Tourists, who spent most of their time at custom-built resorts on outlying coral atolls in the scattered island chain, were still not being allowed to visit the capital Male.

But the airport reopened for civilian flights, and planes landed from Singapore, West Germany and Sri Lanka to pick up tourists whose departure was delayed by the coup attempt.

Gayoom said the Indian forces, whose arrival within 18 hours of the attack forced the mercenaries to abandon Male, were already starting to leave but he said a date for their complete withdrawal had not been fixed.

Yugoslav leaders bury differences in bid to solve national problems

BELGRADE (AP) — Most of Yugoslavia's Communist leaders have agreed temporarily to set aside differences over ethnic and other divisive political issues, in an attempt to solve the country's burning economic and social problems.

The deal seems to have been struck at a watershed session of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee after the country's political crisis peaked in early October.

The outcome was a no-confidence vote against Serbian politburo member Dusan Cirkovic. That development was widely seen as a rebuff from the rest of the country to Slobodan Milosevic, Communist Party head in the Serbian republic, over his fanning of ethnic tensions.

The president of Yugoslavia's most liberal republic of Slovenia, Janc Stanovnik, said the Central Committee move meant "the whole situation in Yugoslavia has changed and we have thus made a crucial start" towards real reform.

Yugoslavia's government, grappling with Europe's highest inflation and a protracted econo-

mic crisis, on Oct. 31 drafted a programme of radical reforms intended to create an open market economy in this communist country.

The blueprint envisages wide introduction of private domestic and foreign capital, the floating of stocks and bonds, provisions for unprofitable firms to go bankrupt, a reshaping of the banking system along Western lines, and the creation of a capital market.

The reform drive comes as the country struggles with inflation of 236 per cent, a \$21-billion foreign debt and unprecedented labour unrest from workers protesting low salaries and living standards that have fallen by half since 1980 to the level of the mid-1960s.

If the reforms are implemented as planned from Jan. 1, experts say Yugoslavia's economy would differ from Western economies only in its larger proportion of state-owned enterprises. At present, it is a mixture of central planning and an indigenous system which formally gives workers control over the running of their companies.

COLUMN 8

Museum discovers fake Rembrandt

ROTTERDAM (R) — A Dutch museum has discovered that one of its prize possessions, a portrait it thought was a Rembrandt, was not painted by the 17th century Dutch master, a museum spokeswoman said Saturday. Geesje Krediet said experts at Rotterdam's Boymans-van Beuningen museum had performed scientific tests on the portrait, called "The Man With a Red Hat," that proved the work was by an unknown artist copying Rembrandt's style. "It's a great shame for our museum but there have been suspicions surrounding the painting for years," said Krediet.

'Mommie Dearest' author hits back

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Christina Crawford says the abuse she received from critics over her shocking portrayal of her mother, Joan Crawford, was almost as bad as the childhood mistreatment she suffered at the hands of the screen idol. "When the attacks began, I experienced the same sense of invalidation I'd had as an abused child," Crawford, 49, said in a recent interview. "But this time, I was determined to fight back." In her new book, "Survivor," Crawford attacks her critics, who called her first book, "Mommie Dearest," bitter and vindictive. Crawford's adopted sister denied tales of abuse and called her sibling "a person born with evil."

Collins' ex-husband can't have money

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge Friday ordered Peter Holm, former husband of movie star Joan Collins, to stop withdrawing money from her bank accounts until he gives up rights to a house in southern France. The latest development in the couple's divorce saga centres on a key part of a settlement reached by Holm, a former Swedish rock star, and Collins last February. The 55-year-old actress filed for divorce in 1986 after only 13 months of marriage. As part of the settlement, Collins agreed to pay Holm \$180,000 if he signed over the deed to their jointly-owned summer home, valued at \$400,000, in Port Grimaud, France. During their stormy divorce battle, Holm staged demonstrations outside Collins' Beverly Hills home and barricaded himself inside another house owned by the actress.

Hamlich named Academy director

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Academy Award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch has been named musical director of the 61st annual Academy Awards. "Marvin is one of the premier talents in the music area," the show's producer, Allan Carr, said. Hamlisch, a 10-time Oscar nominee, won three Academy Awards on a single evening. Two were for his musical work on "The Way We Were" and the third was for his score adaptation of "The Sting." He received nominations for his work on "The Spy Who Loved Me," "Chorus Line," "Sophie's Choice," "Same Time Next Year," "Kotch" and "Ice Castles." He has also won three Grammy Awards, a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize.

'Last Emperor' producer gets backing

LONDON (R) — Jeremy Thomas, British producer of the Oscar-winning film "The Last Emperor," said Thursday he has put together a \$120-million international package to make six more movies. The package is being backed by the Japanese film company Shochiku-fuji and a consortium of European banks led by Dutch financiers Pierson Holding and Pierson. Finance directors at major Hollywood studios were not interested in "The Last Emperor" directed by Bernardo Bertolucci and based on the story of the last Chinese Emperor Pu Yi, until it scooped a record nine Oscars at the American film Academy Awards this year.

WHO to record together again

LONDON (AP) — The WHO, the defunct 1960s rock group, plans to record its first album together in about six years — but has not yet written the songs, bass guitar player John Entwistle says. "We have got about three months to write the songs," he said. The four members of the WHO last played together in the 1985 Live Aid famine-relief concert.

Seoul hopes to end dilemma over Chun

SEOUL (R) — South Korean authorities, anxious to limit the political damage from two days of riots calling for the arrest of former President Chun Doo Hwan, offered hope of a solution when President Roh Tae-Woo returns from abroad.

Ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) leader Yoon Giel-Jung told reporters a solution to "the Chun problem" as likely when the president returns from an 11-day tour of Asian-Pacific nations in mid-November.

While Roh has been away Yoon has exacted Chun's promise to apologise for and explain scandals of his eight-year rule, denounced by protesters as corrupt and brutal.

Yoon said he would act as a messenger between Roh and Chun to determine the timing and nature of the apology and added, "former President Chun made it clear that he would respect President Roh's will and cooperate with him."

On Thursday and Saturday there were violent street protests

calling for Chun's arrest.

On Saturday protesters shouting "arrest Chun Doo Hwan," bring down Roh Tae-Woo" tried to reach Chun's home in north-west Seoul after attending a rally of more than 10,000 students, dissidents and ordinary citizens.

Some set fire to police boxes and skirmished with riot police in the worst city centre violence since anti-Chun demonstrations in June 1987.

On Thursday more than 20,000 policemen were mobilised to block a radical student plan to storm Chun's bunker-like residence, kidnap him and his wife and "execute" the pair.

No one managed to threaten the former leader but 30,000 students at 101 universities across the country staged demonstrations, some violent, all calling for Chun's arrest.

State radio said Sunday senior DJP officials were keeping lines of communication open with Chun and opposition parties to limit political damage from the violence.



Protesting students jump from the third floor of the national tax headquarters in Seoul Friday to evade police.

Vote-counting computers not safe from 'virus'

WASHINGTON (R) — Only a few days after a "virus" played havoc with computers across the United States, another set of computers Tuesday will be counting more than half of all the votes cast in the presidential election.

According to the manufacturers and election officials the computers are virtually virus-proof, but critics disagree and insist they are open to abuse.

Thousands of computers in universities and defence research centres had to be shut down Thursday as an electronic sabotage programme ran riot through the telephone-linked system.

The incident raised questions about the vulnerability of the election vote-counting computers, said Mae Churchill, director of Election Watch, a private Los Angeles-based body which monitors the integrity of the election

process.

"It's very closely tied with this breaking story because one of the major ways of rigging elections is computer viruses," she said.

"The vulnerability of these (computer) systems has been known for a long time but nobody has thought to apply them to the election systems, which are just as vulnerable as what's happening now."

The computers, which will be used to count votes in 60 per cent of the country's precincts Tuesday, are made by the Dallas-based firm Business Records Corporation.

The company's executive vice-president, Bill Becker, said the problem did not apply to the company's machines because they are not linked to other computers through telephone lines.

Religious row brews in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (Agencies) — Authorities have tightened security in the northern Sokoto town, the seat of Muslim leadership, to avert trouble over the succession of the sultan who died last week.

The Guardian newspaper reported Saturday that police also arrested the local radio station's general manager and four of its employees after a broadcast announced the late Sultan Sir Sadiq Abu Baker's son had been selected to succeed his father.

The independent newspaper, published in Nigeria's capital, Lagos, said the station broadcast another announcement by the

nine-member succession selection committee saying no decision had been made soon after the police raid Friday morning.

Authorities, anticipating disturbances following the contradictory announcements, sent policemen to patrol Kano streets. Other policemen took positions around strategic buildings and locations.

Traditionally the sultan in Kano, 880 kilometres northeast of Lagos, is the spiritual leader of Nigerian Muslims. The sultan is also consulted by political leaders, including non-Muslims.

Muslims constitute 47 per cent of the population of Nigeria,

Africa's most populous nation.

A spokesman for the "king-makers" committee, Alhaji Aliyu, said the committee's choice of a successor to the sultan had yet to be approved by the military government, the News Agency of Nigeria reported from Sokoto.

The 60-year-old Mohammed Maccido, the tipped successor, is one of the late sultan's many children and one of four candidates to become the 18th head of the Sokoto caliphate.

The caliphate was founded in 1804 by Usman Dan Fodio, the warrior and religious leader who spread Islam throughout northern Nigeria.

Charles — married with children but 'voice of people'

LONDON (AP) — In his search for an escape from the frustration of playing monarch-in-waiting, Prince Charles is carving out a niche as an improbable but often effective "voice of the people."

His sorties into issues like ocean pollution, unemployment and inner-city decay bring him about as close to political controversy as the strictly neutral British monarchy can go. By stretching the bars of his gilded cage, this child of privilege faces the irony of becoming a darling of the left, monarchy's traditional foe.

Charles Philip Arthur George turns 40 Nov. 14, and the bonnie Prince Charlie of younger days has grown more sober, the sense of guilt at all his privileges more apparent.

There's still a lot of the fun-loving jetsetter left in him, but the solemn, jug-eared face looks more lined and lived-in. The pate that will one day wear the crown is balding. His taste in clothes runs to conservative double-breasted suits.

Moving among his fellow citizens — particularly the young, urban unemployed who are his biggest concern — he

takes on what biographer Alan Hamilton calls "the faintly puzzled air of a bishop in a betting shop."

At times, the heir to the throne could pass for just another '60s survivor coasting into middle age: married with two small children, he's into organic farming, alternative medicine, health food, Jungian philosophy and the fate of the ozone layer.

What lifts him above the ordinary is that as Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland, his destiny is to become King Charles III.

That destiny looks far off. His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, is healthy and vigorous at 62, and shows no inclination to abdicate in favour of her son. Meanwhile, perhaps mindful of an earlier Prince of Wales who frittered away 59 years waiting to be crowned King Edward VII, the prince has made it clear that "I am determined not to be confined to cutting ribbons."



Prince Charles

Charles' story, writes another biographer, Anthony Holden, "is one of constant struggle against the limitations placed upon him by the genetic accident of his birth... a confused and tortured soul trying to come to terms with a claustrophobic, if comfortable life of inherited imprisonment... a caring and thoughtful man in search of good to do..."

That search has taken him on clandestine visits to London slums, into the cowsheds of tenant farmers, to the peatlands of the western Isles of Scotland and as far afield as the Kalahari desert.

Simply put, Charles stands for consensus in a society divided by the uncompromising anti-consensus politics of Margaret Thatcher.

Tom Nairn, an anti-monarchist writer, says the irony is that if there is any threat to the monarchy today, it comes not from the left but from Tory right-wingers, traditional upholders of the royal institution, who are irked by Charles' posture as conscience of the nation.

Nairn said when he addresses left-wing groups, "I've had people say to me, 'You mustn't criticise Charles too much because he's on our side.'"

Charles believes in good works on a small, individual scale, and runs two charitable trusts that dispense grants of up to £3,000 (\$5,000) to unemployed people aged 18 to 25 to start a small business.

About 1,800 people a year get grants, and the trusts have created some 4,300 businesses.

One of them, a Birmingham bakery, is making the cake for his birthday party, which will be celebrated with a street festival in the central England city.

Blessed with a private £23-million (\$39-million) fortune, Charles is the first royal heir to forego his annual entitlement from taxpayers' funds.

Also, although he doesn't have to pay income tax, he gives the state one-quarter of the annual £2 million (\$3.4 million) profit from his 130,000-acre farming estate, the Duchy of Cornwall.

Last year he made a secret trip by van around a destitute district of London's East End.

Another time, after visiting Bengali immigrant workers in a garment sweatshop, he looked shaken and angry. "This is really terrible," he said. "All we are managing to do is replicate some of the conditions these people have left behind... it is really not acceptable."

Charles defines his role as being "to stir things up, to throw a proverbial royal brick through the plate glass of pompous and professional bureaucratic pride."